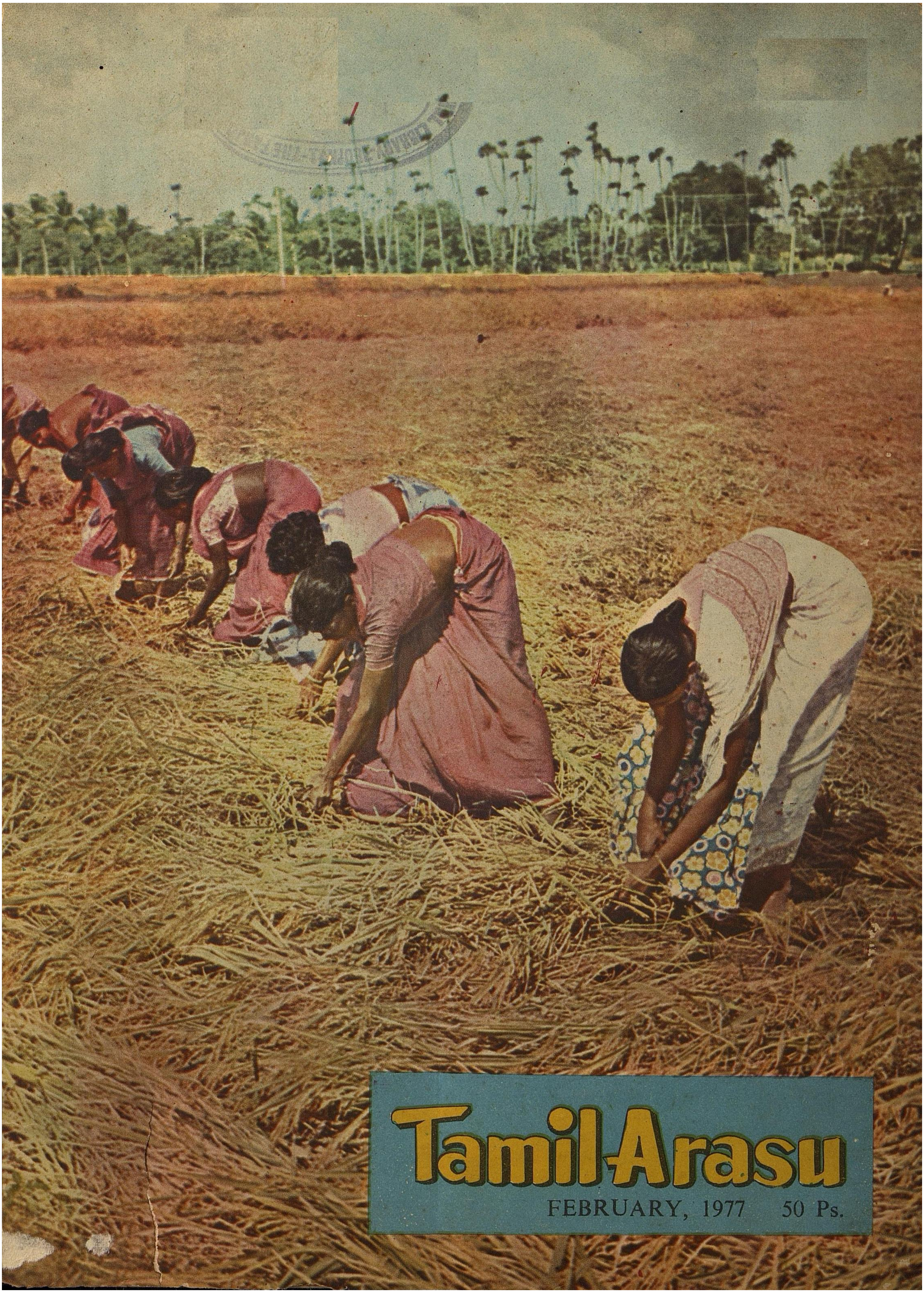


Tamil Arasu

FEBRUARY, 1977 50 Ps.

MAKE TAMIL NADU "GREEN"

AN APPEAL

Trees play a very vital role in our economy. Besides providing timber, fuel wood, fruits and various other indispensable items, they help preventing environmental pollution. Our country falls in the deficit zone so far as forests are concerned with barely 23% and in Tamil Nadu it is only 17% of total geographical area under forests.

For over two decades now Vanamahotsava has been celebrated as an annual festival. But the achievement has not been much. Nehruji, our beloved leader, has several times expressed grave concern at the cutting down of trees in the country. He significantly pointed out " though it is easy to cut down a tree, it takes a generation to grow one." So, a vigorous drive for planting trees and protecting them should be launched.

Every citizen young and old, men and women, would like to ensure that our country prospers. It is, therefore, possible, given the will and determination, to execute time-bound programme to re-establish vegetation on a substantial portion of such denuded areas.

An extent of 51,849 hectares of Panchayat lands and other unutilised Government waste lands has been brought under plantation. In addition 10,535 hectares have been planted along canal, and river banks mostly in Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli and Tirunelveli Districts. Besides these Governmental efforts, public institutions and local bodies should involve themselves in this national programme.

Corporations and Municipalities may have some existing arrangements for raising nurseries and supply of seedlings to the public. If they are not there, at present, organisations concerned should be persuaded to start nurseries and they should be actively associated in the tree planting programme in urban areas. Other organisations like Agri-Horticultural Society, which are already involved in tree planting work, should be associated. Apart from this, the Forest and Agricultural Departments could establish nurseries in the cities and larger towns. The Forest Department can raise mainly seedlings of trees, known for the beautiful flowers or large and well-shaped crowns, while Agricultural Department may concentrate on fruit yielding trees like Mango, Guava, Lime, etc. A large variety of species can be grown with a view to give beauty to the landscape and also for their utility as timber, fuel, etc. Species will be chosen according to the soil and climate conditions of the localities. It is vital, therefore, that we plant well and wisely the right species in right places and at right time. Tree planting will incidently help to provide beauty and colour to the country side.

A detailed scheme has been drawn up by Government to make this year's tree planting programme a grand success. So, I earnestly appeal to the people of Tamil Nadu to extend their unstinted co-operation and to plant trees with renewed enthusiasm and thus make Tamil Nadu " Green."

Mohanlal Sukhadia.

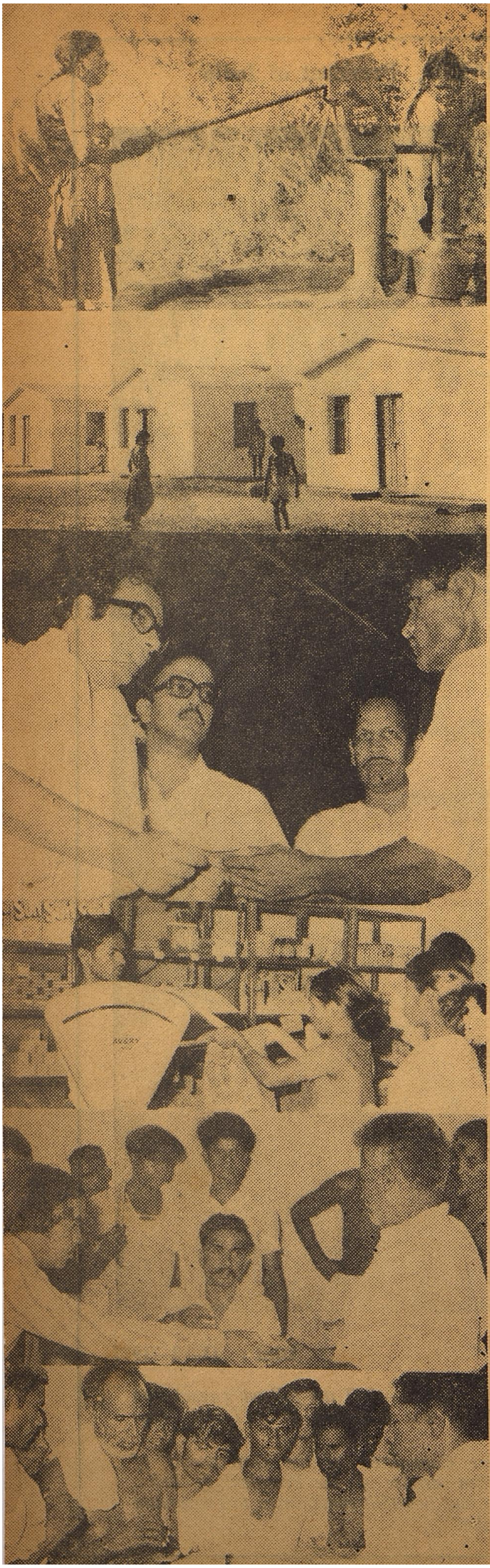
GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU.

Demise of Thiru FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, President of India

Born : 13—5—1905 **Died : 11—2—1977**

On the demise of President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on 11—2—1977 *the following resolution of the Executive Committee of the Government of Tamil Nadu was published in a Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extra-ordinary :*

"The Governor and the Members of the **Executive Committee** *of the Government of Tamil Nadu record their deep sense of sorrow at the sudden demise of the President of India, Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and wish to convey their sincere and heartfelt condolences to Thirumathi Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and family and the Government of India."*



Tamil Arasu

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The articles appearing on pages 7 to 33 in this issue are published by kind courtesy of "Economic Times" which published them in the form of a supplement on 2-3-'77.

THE LATE THIRU FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED

A FLOWER OF INDIAN SECULARISM

Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was born at Delhi on May 13, 1905. His father, the late Col. Z. A. Ahmed, was an Assamese originally belonging to Kakharihat in Golla-ghat Sub-Division of Assam.

Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed received his early education in Government High School at Gonda (UP) and in the Government High School, Delhi, from where he passed the matriculation examination of Punjab University in 1921. He joined St. Stephens' College, Delhi but soon proceeded to England where he was admitted to St. Katherine's College of Cambridge University. Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed graduated from Cambridge in 1927 in history tripos. After completing the law course, he was called to the bar from the Inner Temple, London in 1928.

On returning to India, Thiru Ahmed got himself enrolled as an advocate of Punjab High Court in undivided India. He went to Assam with his father in 1928 and remained there most of the time except for a brief period when he practised law in Calcutta. He joined the Indian National Congress as a primary member in 1931. In 1935, he successfully contested the Assembly Election from a reserved Muslim seat in the teeth of opposition from Sir Md. Saadullah, who was then in power in Assam.

Since 1936, he had continuously been a member of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, Working Committee of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and the AICC except for short breaks. He joined the Assam Government in the First Congress Cabinet (Bardoloi Cabinet) in 1938-39 as Finance and Revenue Minister. His tenure of office in the Bardoloi Cabinet was memorable for some radical measures. These included giving 50 per cent land revenue remission, imposing tax on agricultural income and tapping other sources of revenue which helped the State to more than double its resources.

Along with late Gopinath Bardoloi, he resigned from the Government and offered individual satyagraha in 1940 as commended by Mahatma Gandhi. He was imprisoned for one year. Soon after his release, he was again taken a security prisoner and was detained for a continuous period of three and half years before being released in April, 1945. In the 1945 election, when he stood for a seat in the State Assembly, all the might of the Muslim League was marshalled against him and he was defeated by a Muslim League candidate. In 1946, he became Advocate General of Assam.

He became a member of the Congress Working Committee soon after and in 1952-53 he became a Congress Member of Rajya Sabha. In 1955, he led an Indian Lawyers Delegation to the U.S.S.R.

In 1957, he went to the United Nations as an Indian delegate.

In 1957, he was again elected to the Assam Assembly by an overwhelming majority and the following year he joined the State Cabinet holding charge of the portfolios of Finance, Law, Community Development, Panchayat and Local-Self Government.

In 1962, he was re-elected to the State Legislature and continued to remain a Minister holding charge of all the previous portfolios, except Local Self-Government. He had been a member of the All India Congress Working Committee and also member of Parliamentary Board since 1964.

In 1964, on an invitation from the United States, he paid a visit to the United States and spent about five weeks there touring different parts of the country. He returned from there *via* Japan and Hongkong. In 1965, he went to Malaysia, Kualalumpur as a Representative of the Government of India to participate in the celebration of their Independence Day and Inauguration of the International Mosque and Airport at Kualalumpur.

In 1966, he was elected to Rajya Sabha. On 29th January, 1966, he was sworn in as Minister of Irrigation and Power in the Central Cabinet and on the 14th November 1966, he became Union Education Minister.

In the General Elections in 1967, he was elected to Lok Sabha from the Barpeta Constituency in Assam. On March 13, 1967, he was appointed Cabinet Minister for Industrial Development and Company Affairs.

As the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs, a new Industrial Policy aimed at providing accelerated growth, wider base for small and ancillary industries, special attention to backward areas and selective foreign collaboration was laid down by him. He piloted monopolies bill and introduced patents bills. Thiru Ahmed visited U.K., West Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary, France, Italy, U.A.R., U.S.S.R., Ceylon and Iran as Minister for Industrial Development and Company Affairs.

In 1969, Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed represented India at the Conference of Heads of Arab States at Rabat.

On June 27, 1970, Thiru Ahmed took over as Minister for Agriculture. He was reassigned the same portfolio after having been elected to the Lok Sabha in 1972 General Elections from his old constituency in Assam.

He went to attend FAO's Conference to Australia as a special guest in September, 1970 and visited Japan, Philippines and Hongkong. He led the Indian Delegation to the FAO Council's Sessions in Rome in November, 1971 and November, 1973.

During the large scale influx of refugees from Bangla Desh following the Pak tyranny in that region and subsequent attack by that country on India, Thiru Ahmed visited the Lebanon, Iraq and UAR to explain India's stand and the problems faced by her in its wake.

Thiru B. D. JATTI Sworn in as President of India

Thiru B. D. Jatti Vice-President ,assumed charge of acting President of India, on 11-2-1977 in pursuance of Article 65 (1) of the Constitution.

The oath of office was administered to Thiru Jatti by Thiru Justice M. H. Beg, Chief Justice of India at a ceremony in Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was attended by the Prime Minister and other members of the Council of Ministers, Cabinet Secretary, the three Chiefs of Staff and senior officials.

Thiru Basappa Danappa Jatti, born on September 10, 1912, at Savalgi, Bijapur District, Mysore, was educated at the Bijapur Government High School and the Rajaram College, Kolhapur, from where he got his Bachelor of Arts Degree and later on got the LL.B. Degree from the Sykes Law College, Kolhapur.

Thereafter, Thiru Jatti practised Law at Jamkhandi and became a Minister in the Jamkhandi State which he headed as its Chief Minister later on. He was nominated as M.L.A. to the Bombay Legislative Assembly where he represented the merged areas of the Mysore State (Now known as Karnataka State). He became Parliamentary Secretary to Thiru B. G. Kher, the then Chief Minister of Bombay, and later on became the Deputy Minister of Health and Labour in his Ministry in 1952.

After the reorganisation of the States, Thiru Jatti became an M.L.A. in the Mysore Legislative Assembly. He was Chairman of the Land Reforms Committee. From 1958 to 1962 he was the Chief Minister of the Mysore State. He was re-elected as an M.L.A. from the Jamkhandi constituency for the Mysore Legislative Assembly for the period 1962-67. Thereafter, he became the Minister of Finance 1962-65 and the Minister for Food, 1965-67.

Thiru B. D. Jatti took over as the Lt. Governor, Pondicherry on October 14, 1968, and assumed the Office of the Governor of Orissa on November 8, 1972, which he resigned on August 20, 1974. He was elected Vice-President of India on August 27, 1974, which office he assumed on August 31, 1974.

A DYNAMIC AND DEVOTED PUBLIC WORKER

Thiru Ahmed was the seniormost member of the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet and in that capacity he had been associated with all the political decisions.

Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was a keen sportsman. He had been the President of the Assam Football Association and Assam Cricket Association for many years and Vice-Chairman of the Assam Sports Council and was connected with many other social institutions of the State. He was recently re-elected President of the All India Lawn Tennis Association.

Thiru Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was elected as the fifth President of India on August 20, 1974 having polled votes valued at 7,65,587 and was sworn in on August, 24.

As President he undertook tours in a number of countries including Hungary and Yugoslavia in September, 1975, Indonesia in May 1975, Egypt in December 1975. Iran in June 1976 and Iraq and United Emirates in October 1976. He received rousing welcomes wherever he went and was greatly instrumental in fostering goodwill and cooperation between these countries and our Nation.

He left on a goodwill visit to Malaysia, Philippines and Burma on February 6, 1977. But he had to cancel the latter part of his engagements as he was taken ill and returned to New Delhi on 10th February, 1977.

Thiru Ahmed was the President of the country during a momentous period of the Nation's Social, Economic and Political resurgence.

His contribution to the Nation during the freedom struggle and as a sincere, dynamic and devoted public worker since attainment of Independence will be remembered for ever.

The late President leaves behind his devoted wife, Begum Abida Ahmed, whom he married in 1945 and two sons and a daughter.

The year we passed through, has been a momentous one for the Republic. Our Constitution was amended with the objective of speeding up our progress towards socialism ; and to emphasise this commitment, our country has been formally proclaimed to be a Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic Republic.

This amendment renews the pledge of the nation to uphold the principles of Gandhi and Nehru, principles to establish which, in the words of poet Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai, our people carried through a prolonged struggle without sword and bloodshed. These principles, embodied in the concept of socialism, aim at building an egalitarian society which would do away with exploitation and poverty, and bring about equal rights and opportunities for all.

Our unhappy inheritance left us with a stratified society with large sections of backward classes and Harijans, and our efforts to liquidate this burden and bring up these sections of population left behind in the historical evolution to the same level as the forward sections of the community, have gathered momentum in the recent times. Land reforms and Minimum Wages Act which are among two important points of the 20-point programme are designed to bring about this transformation in our rural areas.

This process has been further reinforced by the coming into force of the Civil Rights Protection Act on November 19, 1976. This Act now makes practising of untouchability a cognisable offence, and prescribes various stringent measures which should contribute to end this age-long and sinful practice. **A man's birth should be of no relevance to measure his worth; but only his contribution to the social well-being.** Similarly, steps have been taken to remove the traditional disparity between men and women. Their wages have been equalised, and the practice of dowry which was a slur on womanhood, is being massively assailed.

Drought & Flood

While these momentous changes are taking place in our national life, in Tamil Nadu, we passed through a difficult year. Many districts of the State experienced very severe drought for the second and third years, and the first few months period was one of great concern and effort, to alleviate drought conditions and use drought relief measures to create permanent assets for the community. Though the south-west monsoon failed us, the north-east monsoon was beneficient and brought relief from drought conditions in most of the districts.

MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR NATION, CRITICAL YEAR FOR STATE

* * *

Governor's Review underlines

Commitment to National Programmes

However, the same beneficient monsoon caused disastrous floods in the city of Madras and surrounding areas of the Chingleput district. The floods rendered thousands of people homeless, and also damaged severely, industrial machinery, leaving thousands of workers temporarily jobless. **Rescue work was undertaken by the fire services, police, navy and other armed services and our brave fishermen in particular, on a vast scale. But for their gallantry and devotion to duty, the damage and loss of life would have been greater.** This was followed by relief measures on a scale not attempted before. Apart from the Services, many voluntary organisations, charitable groups and individuals rendered outstanding service in organising relief and raising funds for the State Relief fund. Our thanks are due to all those individuals and organisations. The Government is continuing the relief measures with due attention to avoid the mistakes of the past.

In view of the failure of south-west monsoon and scarcity of water in our reservoirs, we expect a shortfall of 10 lakhs of tonnes against the targetted 84 lakhs of tonnes for 1976-77. However, in view of the comfortable carry over stock position and the creation of the Southern Rice Zone, we do not anticipate any difficulty on the food front.

In spite of these difficulties, the State is implementing in 1976-77, an annual plan of Rs. 229 crores which is more than Rs. 60 crores higher than that of the 1975-76 outlay. It is my hope that our plan outlay for 1977-78 will be even higher. The State is today well set to implement the Five Year Plan outlay both in physical and financial terms.

This year, the power position was more comfortable than last year, in spite of tremendous shortfall in hydel power production. This was mainly due to better performance of our thermal stations at Ennore and Neyveli. Next year, we expect Tuticorin power-station to come on stream.

The State has been in the forefront of implementation of the 20-point programme, and in fulfilling the targets of family planning. We have brought down the birth rate to 29 per thousand, at present the lowest in the country.

Debt Relief

We may look back with satisfaction to a number of other major achievements. Debt relief which liberated millions of the poor from the thraldom of the money-lender, was a landmark in our efforts to remove poverty. Simultaneously, a drive has been instituted to bring more people under the co-operative fold. At present, about 33 lakhs of families have been enrolled.

Opening of the Kalrayan hills, liberation of thousands of tribals living there, and initiation of an integrated development programme, constituted the closing chapter in our efforts to encompass the entire State under modern developmental administration.

The introduction of Tamil as the language of the subordinate courts on November 14, 1976 fulfils the long-felt need of bringing administration of justice within the reach of understanding of the common man.

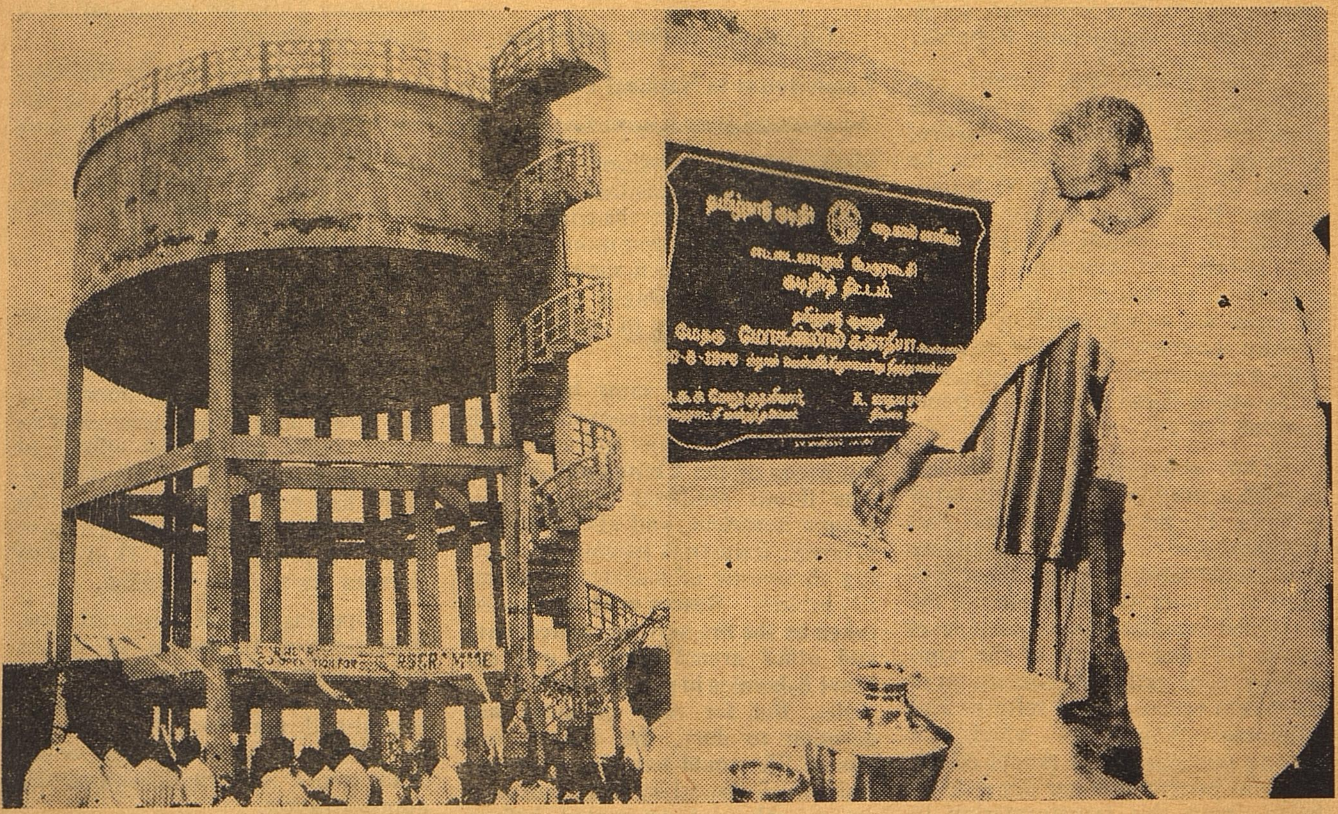
Even as these efforts at economic and social development were intensified, steps have been taken for administrative development as well, to sensitise the administrative machinery to respond promptly and effectively to the needs of the people, to eradicate corrupt practices and to eliminate, harassment at lower levels. Administrative development requires long and sustained efforts, and we have made a good beginning.

The past year has been a year of commitment to national programmes of economic development increase in production, stabilization of prices and many other measures of social transformation. We now move on to another year, in which I trust, we will make a disciplined effort towards further progress of this great country of ours.

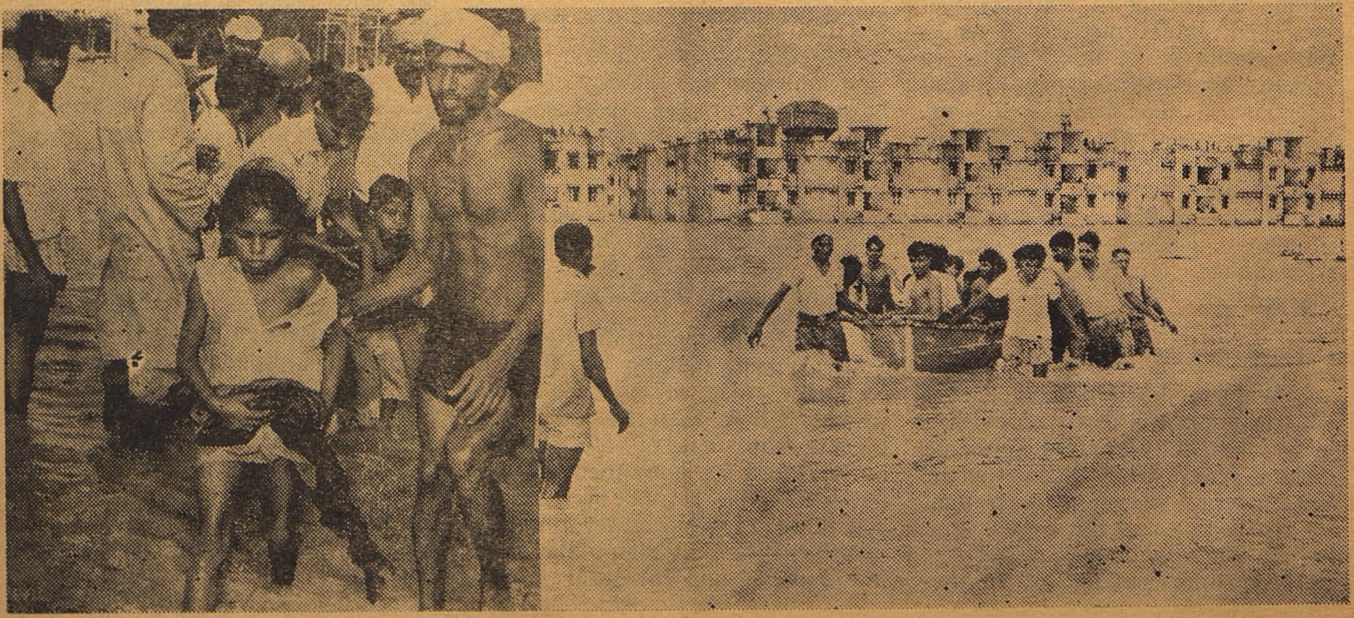
*

1976 WAS YEAR GRAVE CHALLENGES

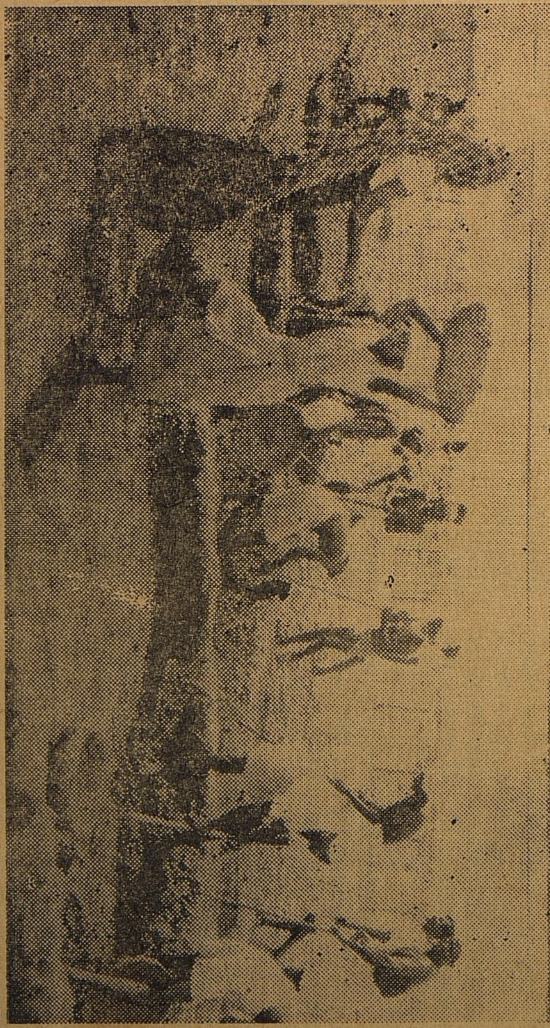
First half of year was one of great concern and effort in providing drinking water to villages in grip of 3rd year drought

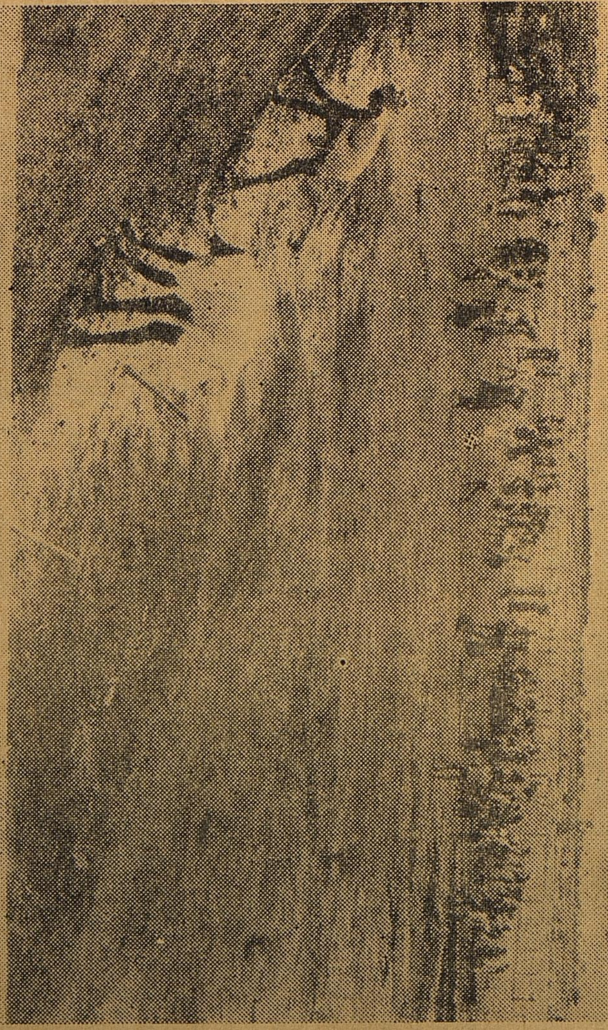


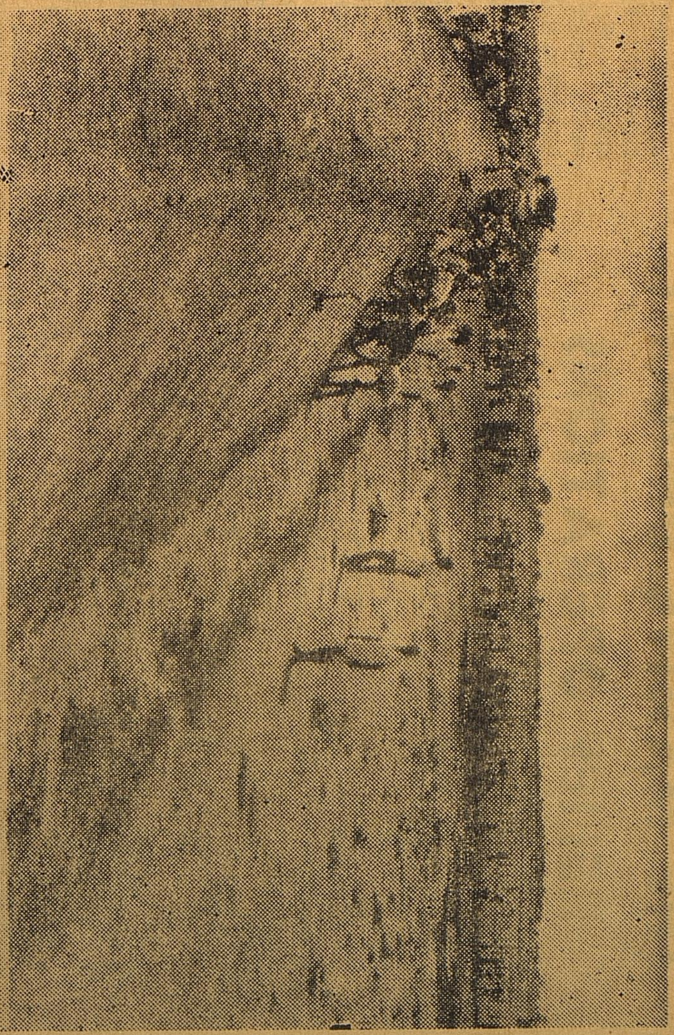
When Rains came, it caused disastrous Floods.
Kotturpuram Residents being brought to safety by brave fishermen



The Massive Drought Relief operations was a saga of Fortitude







THE MASSIVE DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS

—oOo—

Rs. 27 Crores Spent in 4190 Villages Spread over 13 Districts

The State Government had to tackle a situation of drought over a large part of the State during 1976. The north-east monsoon was highly deficient during 1975. Coming on the heels of deficient rainfall in 1974, this resulted in severe drought conditions.

The situation was made worse by deficiency in south-west monsoon rainfall in 1976 in the areas of the State which normally receive rains during that monsoon. Catchment areas in Kerala and Karnataka feeding the major irrigation sources (Cauvery, Periyar-Vaigai, Tamraparani) of Tamil Nadu also received sparse rainfall. As a result, irrigation facilities were severely affected, requiring relief operations in certain irrigated areas of the State. **In all, relief measures had to be taken up in 4,190 villages spread over 13 districts of the State (all the districts excepting Madras and Chingleput). The population affected was about one crore, roughly a fourth of the population of the State. To meet this situation, a massive drought relief programme involving an expenditure of Rs. 27 crores was launched.**

The programme aimed at supplying drinking water and generating employment opportunities in the drought-affected areas. The programme was executed on a war footing and was kept under constant review at the highest level. The Governor and his Advisers frequently toured the drought-affected areas and took on-the-spot decisions for affording relief. The Prime Minister's tour of the drought-affected areas during September, 1976 was of immense help in reassuring the drought affected population and boosting morale.

The supply of drinking water in the drought-affected area was given first priority at a total of about Rs. 12 crores. The following schemes were taken up : (*a*) A massive bore well programme involving the sinking of 6,700 bore wells provided with hand pumps was put through. The magnitude of this programme can be appreciated from the fact that, in about 8 months time, as many bore wells were sunk in the State as in the last five years. This programme helped in tackling the water scarcity effectively. (*b*) There are certain areas of the State where the sub-soil water is saline. To help such areas, piped water supply schemes were taken up. An amount of Rs. 3 crores was provided for such schemes in Tiruvadanai taluk of Ramanathapuram district, Ottapidaram, Tuticorin and Vilathikulam areas of Tirunelveli district and Sethybavachatram panchayat union area of Thanjavur district. These schemes involved tapping of a good drinking water source at some distance from the villages and carrying the water to the village through pipes. (*c*) The bore-well programme was supplemented by a programme of deepening drinking water wells and ponds (known as ooranies) in Tamil Nadu. About 7,350 wells and 470 ooranies were deepened.

By

K. V. RAMANATHAN, I.A.S.,
Secretary,
Revenue Department.

The drought led to large scale unemployment among agricultural labourers. To generate alternative employment, a large number of works under medium and minor irrigation, soil conservation, afforestation and fair weather roads sectors were taken up at a cost of Rs. 15 crores. **The number of irrigation, road and percolation pond works taken up was about 4,600. In addition, contour bunding and afforestation works were taken up in about 35,000 hectares.** Preference was given to irrigation, soil conservation and afforestation works. Road works were given the last priority. The programme aimed at creating, to the extent possible, permanent assets while also generating employment all over the drought-affected area. The employment generation programme generated about 150 lakhs man-days of employment during April to December, 1976. The number of persons employed varied from time to time, the maximum being about 1.75 lakhs daily during September 1976.

Revenue Remitted Rs. 2.18 Crores

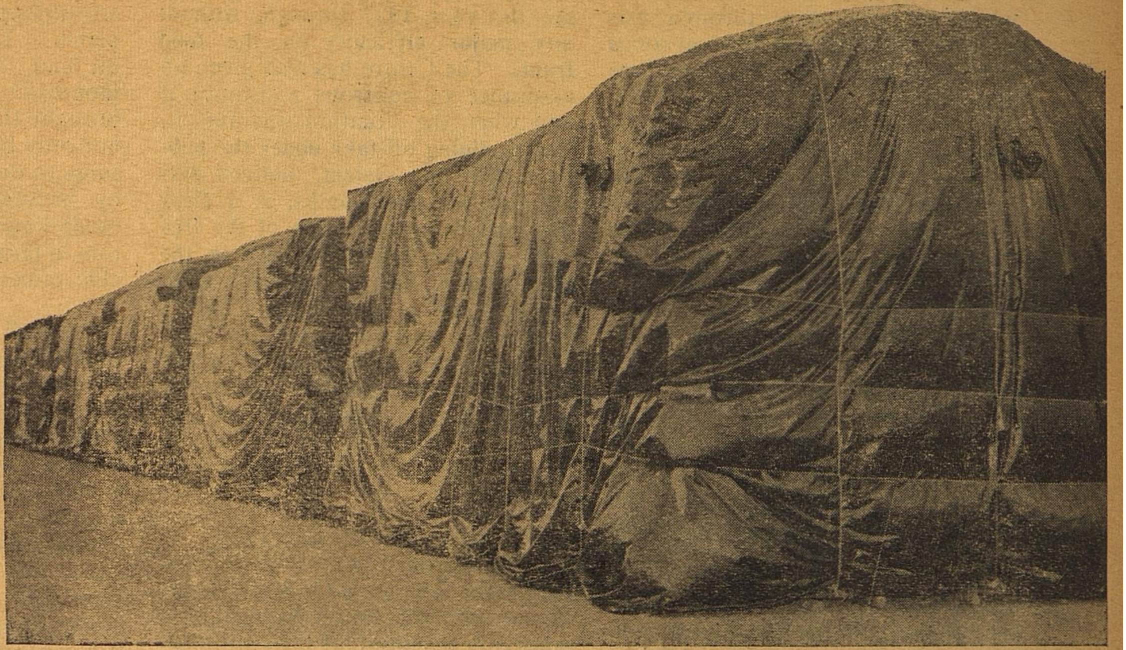
Loan Collection deferred Rs. 6.62 Crores

To afford relief to ryots whose crops were affected by drought, remission and postponement of Government dues were ordered on the basis of field-by-field inspection of crops. An amount of Rs. 2.18 crores was remitted and collection of loan dues amounting to Rs. 6.62 crores was postponed to the next year.

Central assistance was sought to meet the very large expenditure on the programme and the Centre extended advanced plan assistance of Rs. 15.70 crores.

Thanks to the massive relief programme, the distress caused by the drought was substantially mitigated. There was no report of any case of starvation. The poeple of the State, who are well known for their endurance,faced the drought situation bravely. Many voluntary agencies also participated in the drought relief programme by taking up schemes like supplying fodder for cattle at fair prices and drinking water through lorries. Thanks to the whole-hearted co-operation of the people, the drought can be said to have been tackled effectively.

Dynamic Food Policy Pays Dividends



Cover and Plinth storage of rice

A pragmatic and dynamic food policy, with a two-pronged drive to maximise procurement on the one hand and to implement a well-organised and responsive system of public distribution on the other, helped Tamil Nadu to tackle, with significant success, a difficult food situation that had been aggravated by two years of successive drought.

Over 5.5 lakhs tonnes of rice were procured during 1976, exceeding the targets fixed for the state by the Agricultural Prices Commission. A significant feature of this procurement was that it was done directly by government sponsored agencies operating purchase centres in even the remotest villages, thus eliminating the scope for malpractices by private middlemen, and ensuring that the full benefit reached the producers.

The Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, an undertaking of the state government, was in charge of procurement and the bulk of the work was done by it. Co-operatives and the Food Corporation of India also procured on behalf of the state government. Even the movement of procured stocks was done entirely by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation without entrusting it to the private millers. After getting the paddy hulled in the 13 modern rice mills operated by the Civil Supplies Corporation and through private millers appointed as hulling agents, the Corporation moved the stocks to the various storage points spread all over the state.

By
K. Diraviam, I.A.S.
Secretary, Food Department

A chain of stores were opened by Civil Supplies Department to stabilise prices.

The entire population of Tamil Nadu is covered by family cards and although there is no statutory rationing in any of the areas, a well knit public distribution system is maintained to cater to the needs of the public mainly through the co-operatives and the retail points of the Corporation itself.

Another noteworthy feature of the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is that in the entire state, except for a portion of the hilly district of the Nilgiris, public distribution is in the hands of only co-operatives, panchayats and the government sponsored Civil Supplies Corporation. Against nearly 9,500 retail points run by these agencies, only 18 are run by private retailers appointed as authorised retailers and that too only in Nilgris district. This has helped the government to maintain at peak level of efficiency the public distribution system, facilitating extension of coverage and pumping in of stocks whenever there was a problem of availability of stocks or prices in the open market tended to increase.

The year 1976 was the year in which a major breakthrough was achieved by the constitution of a larger rice zone comprising the three southern states of Tamil Nadu. Andhra and Karnataka. This larger zone which came into effect from October 15, 1976 has facilitated the free flow of rice between the three states. In the few months since the constitution of this zone, nearly 60,000 tonnes of rice were moved into Tamil Nadu. Simultaneously, with the constitution of the larger zone, all inter-district restrictions on the movement of paddy and rice in the entire State of Tamil Nadu were removed, thus enabling the unrestricted movement of rice from surplus producing districts to the deficit consuming districts. This has helped to restore the equilibrium both in respect of availability of stocks and the price levels. The producer in the surplus districts now commands a larger outlet and better prices for his produce and the consumer in the deficit district is enjoying the benefit of lower prices, thanks to the free flow of rice. The removal of inter-district restrictions has resulted in the prices of rice going up slightly in the surplus districts and going down considerably in the deficit districts. **The overall price levels of rice in the state are now approximating to a level that is reasonable to the consumer while at the same time is remunerative to the producer.** In 1975, prices of medium boiled rice, which is the item of mass consumption in Tamil Nadu, had touched Rs. 4 per kilo in the deficit districts. The comparable price level in January 1977 was Rs. 1.60 to Rs. 2.15 per kilo. While marginal fluctuations and variations in price levels are unavoidable, depending on seasonal factors and also variety preferences, an in-depth analysis of the price trends clearly reveals that the difference between the lowest price of rice and the highest price of rice as it obtained in 1974 and 1975 considerably narrowed down in 1976. The present trends are also very encouraging and lead one to expect confidently that the phenomenon of soaring prices of rice is a thing of the past.

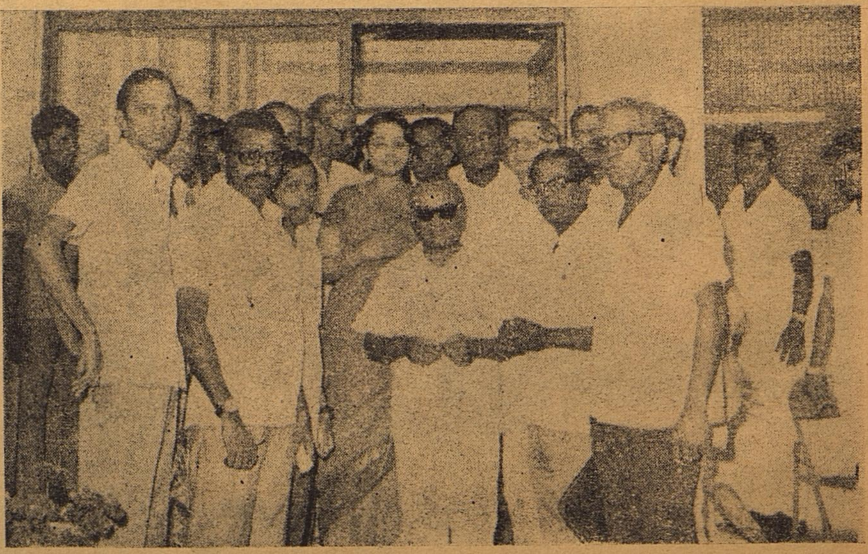
Tamil Nadu opened 1977 with a considerable reserve of rice stock. With the free and easy availability of rice in the open market, large arrivals of rice from the surplus state of Andhra, the removal of irksome inter-district restrictions on the movement of paddy and rice inside the state and the declining price trends of rice, Tamil Nadu can confidently see the year 1977 through, without any major difficulty on the food front. The Centre has also given an assurance of generous assistance if and when the situation warrants it. **The declining off-take under the public distribution system, noticed during the last few months, is a clear and convincing indication of the free and easy availability of rice in the open market and an eloquent testimony to the success of the Centre's food policy and the larger rice zone.** The government, however, proposes to maintain the public distribution system as an insurance against any untoward situation of artificially created scarcity or manipulated price increases.

Tamil Nadu has traditionally a preference for rice as the staple grain of mass consumption. Even so, it is gratifying to note that the consumption of wheat is also spreading not only in the urban centres but in the rural areas also. Following the advice of the Centre, the state government has recently lifted all controls on the prices and extraction percentages of wheat products. This policy, coupled with the liberal allotment of wheat for crushing by roller flour mills, of which there are 28 in Tamil Nadu, has led to free availability of wheat products at reasonable prices.

The concerted efforts of the government in maintaining the public distribution system in respect of rice, wheat and levy sugar, and the constant vigil exercised by it in monitoring the prices of other essential commodities have created an atmosphere of confidence and plenty. The prices of groundnut oil had risen during the last few months. The state government has brought the situation under control not only by enforcing various measures to discipline the trade but also by arranging for purchases from other states and organising distribution in large urban centres at reasonable prices.

Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneering states in providing for a low cost janatha meal at a statutorily fixed price of Re. 1. The Tamil Nadu Catering Establishments (Fixation & Display of Prices of Foodstuffs) Order has prescribed the maximum prices of nine commonly consumed dishes in hotels, including coffee and tea. Besides these measures, efforts are also being taken to persuade voluntary organisations to run canteens where nutritive food at reasonable prices will be made available. The low-cost canteens run by the Guild of Service - the Annapoorna - run by the All India Women's Food Council and the Amudham canteen run by the Avanashilingam Home Science College, Coimbatore, have been doing valuable service in providing nutritious food at low cost. The vigorous enforcement of Tamil Nadu Essential Commodities (Display of Stocks, Prices and Maintenance of Accounts) Order and the packaged Commodities (Regulation) Order has been widely welcomed by the public and has had a healthy effect on maintaining supplies of essential commodities and holding the price line.

Opening of Amudham Canteen by Civil Supplies Department



Developments In Agriculture

NEW STRATEGIES TO SURMOUNT MONSOON FAILURES

Agriculture in Tamil Nadu contributes nearly 43 per cent of the net domestic product of the state. The economic situation of this state is intimately linked up with the success of its agriculture which in turn is influenced by the seasonal conditions.

Of the gross area of 7.65 million hectares of cultivable land in the state, 48 per cent of the area is under irrigation. The remaining area supporting dry sown crops largely depends on the monsoon rains, especially the northeast monsoon. The irrigated areas comprise those fed by river systems, tanks and wells. Adequate and timely monsoons are, however, crucial for the success of farming in the irrigated areas.

The areas under the principal crops in the state are as follows (in lakh hectares): Rice. 26.41, millets 19.89, pulses 7.07, sugar-cane 1.55, cotton 2.99 and groundnut 12.53.

The principal monsoon of the state is the north-east monsoon between September and December but inflows into the hydel reservoirs of the state during the south-west monsoon (June-September) largely decide the success of agriculture in the river basins. The complete failure of the south-west monsoon during 1976 in the catchment areas of the hydel reservoirs and the erratic precipitation in the other regions in the state, besides adversely affecting paddy cultivation in the river valleys, delayed the sowings of the dry land crops as well. The overall crop prospects have, however, largely improved because of the good north-east monsoon.

The department of agriculture formulated contingency plans for implementing alternate cropping programmes for different regions to meet the situation arising out of the failure of the south-west monsoon and the belated onset of the north-east monsoon in certain parts of the state. The formulation of alternate cropping strategy, the intensive publicity given to this by the field staff and the wide adoption of the new crop patterns by the farmers served in a large measure to reduce crop losses arising out of the failure of the south-west monsoon. In the river valley system affected, the traditional rice crop was substituted by light duty crops such as millets and pulses in large-extents. In the deltaic district of Thanjavur, by switching over to dry sown paddy and other light duty crops like maize, ragi and pulses in the Grand Anicut canal area, the grim prospect of large areas lying fallow was avoided. The benefits of this strategy have been two-fold—it minimised reduction of cropped area and sustained employment opportunities for rural labour.

In certain dryland tracts of this state, double cropping practices were introduced in areas where only single crops are normally raised by switching over to crop varieties of shorter duration and by slight adjustment of the sowing time. The field staff were also able to successfully introduce dryland cultivation in large tracts especially in the southern districts, of hybrid and high-yielding millets varieties in the place of the traditional varieties with low grain yields. The success registered in this field promises to be a significant breakthrough in dry land farming.

Emphasis has been laid on stepping up the area under groundnut during the rabi season from the normal 5 lakh acres to 7 lakh acres.

Several measures were implemented to relieve and mitigate the problems of drought in the drought-prone areas of the state. One important new measure was the reclamation of sand cast areas in Rajapalayam taluk where 2,572 acres cast with sand were reclaimed within 45 days. The drought relief works, besides creating good employment potential for agricultural labour in rural areas, were effective in countering the adverse effects of prolonged drought in these areas.

Another useful item taken up to help the dry land farmers was the production and distribution of mechanical seed drills free of cost.

By

K. Venkatesan, I.A.S.,

Secretary,

Agriculture Department.

For the first time under the drought relief work 1,000 seed drills were manufactured using the village smith and carpenters and made available for dry land farming. The utility of the implement for swiftly completing dry land sowings in large areas to take the maximum advantage of the available moisture was widely acclaimed.

The following are the salient features of the various schemes complated during the period under review :

Soil Conservation	78,515 acres
Percolation ponds	226 Nos.
Land reclamation in sand cast areas	2,572 acres
Desilting wells	120 Nos.
Distribution of seed drills	1,012 Nos.

The progress made under various minor irrigation programmes is as follows: private tube wells 2,631, boring wells 1,692, filter point tube wells 2,491 and deepening of wells 1,078.

Input distribution

The requirements of various production aids such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and crop credit were made available through the network of the agricultural depot and by concerting with other agencies. In spite of the reduction in crop coverage under paddy, the offtake of fertilisers during the current year compares favourably with the offtake during the same period of last year. Pests and diseases incidence was continuously monitored and appropriate prophylactic and control measures were taken. Brown plant hopper which was a menace throughout the country showed its ugly head in our deltas also but due to our prompt action we were able to nip it in the bud. During the past nine months there has been no serious pest or disease danger in any part of the state.

Production prospect

It is noteworthy that the state registered an all-time high in rice production (59 lakh tonnes) and per unit productivity of 2,200 kg-ha during 1975-76. **The crop production goals for the current year are as follows: Rice 63 lakh tonnes, millets 18 lakh tonnes, pulses 2.90 lakh tonnes, sugar-cane (gur) 13.90 lakh tonnes, oilseeds 13.43 lakh tonnes and cotton 3.50 lakh bales.**

Improvements in Provision of Health Services to the Poor and the Needy

TAMIL NADU PATTERN MERITS EMULATION BY OTHERS

By
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SECRETARY,
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TAMIL Nadu had always a fairly well-developed system for provision of a package of health services to the urban and rural areas with a distinct bias towards the poor and weaker sections of society. However, there were certain drawbacks and problems relating to congestion and overcrowding in city and district hospitals.

Immediately after the ushering in of the President's Rule, it was possible to introduce a number of improvements in the provision of medical facilities to the poor and the needy and today, after one year of President's Rule, the medical department is providing a package of health services that would be a model for others to emulate.

Out-patient Services

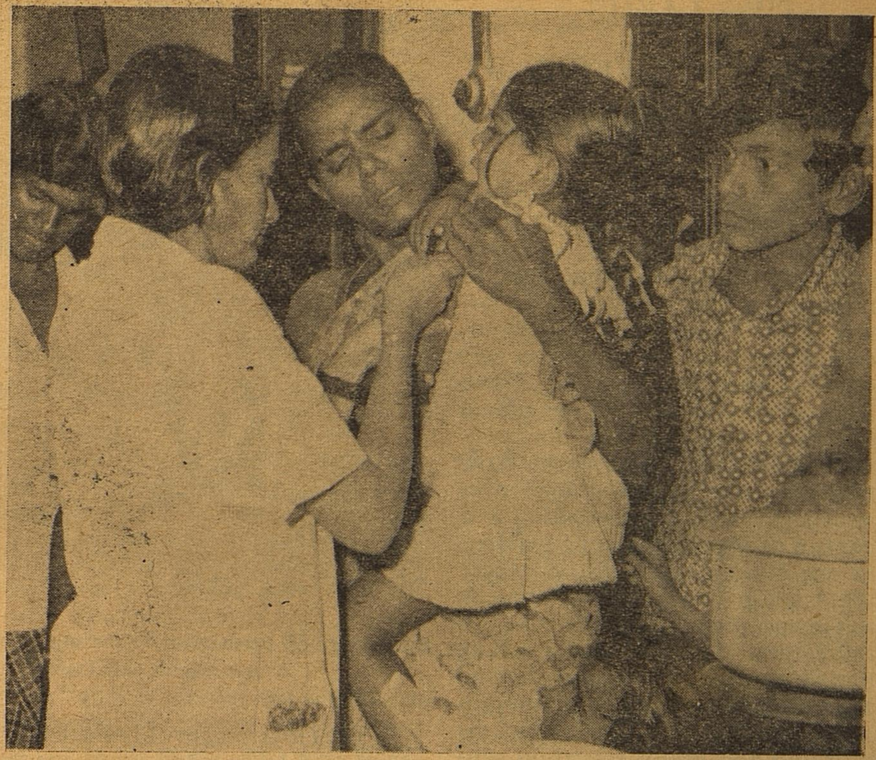
The original out-patient services consisted of a crowd of walking, serious and shock cases. All patients were receiving attention without any functional division and priority which is very essential and fundamental in a hospital system. After several studies, the Government had issued two orders functionally dividing these into Walking, Serious and Shock cases and establishing Intensive Care Units for serious and shock cases and 24 hours Fracture Services for others. These Government orders could be effectively implemented only recently and the functional division has taken place with observance of discipline in the management of out-patients and serious cases. At this crucial stage an important principle was enunciated by the Director of Medical Education, i.e., the same patient should be seen by the same doctor every day in the out-patient ward just as is done in the in-patient wards. This constitutes a major qualitative improvement in treatment. This leads to greater satisfaction to the patients and reduces the time taken by the doctor for treatment. The consumption of drugs, and laboratory investigations are all reduced and this will be followed up in all other hospitals.

In 8 Medical Colleges, 6 Intensive Care Units and 4 Intensive Coronary Care Units have been sanctioned and they are functioning effectively.

102 Medical Units have been formed in Madras City to cater to the 2.5 lakhs slum population at their door-step.

In the recent period, there has been a great deal of discussion on the Srivasta Committee's report regarding reorientation of the medical education to the needs of the community and sending doctors to the villages. In spite of this widely laudable objective, it has not been possible for the Government or the private agencies to send doctors to treat poor people free of cost at their door-step. Several conferences have taken place, several resolutions have been adopted, but all of them had no effect. At a meeting of all the Deans, Principals and Superintendents in Madras, it was suggested the unit chiefs of the various medical colleges would accept a population of 2,500 for each professor within walking distances of the medical college where living conditions are exactly similar to that of a village or even worse. This suggestion had the support of the Governor and the Adviser.

The Government have now passed orders approving the Director of Medical Education's action in having directed the 102 Medical Units in the city to serve the slums with a population of 2.5 lakhs and have also approved a total of 274 such units in the entire state in the 8 medical colleges to serve similar slums around them. **Thus a total of 6.85 lakhs of slum-dwellers are now being covered by the unit chiefs providing comprehensive health care at their own doorsteps.** Senior Professors who have consulting rooms for which appointment sought and obtained is with time intervals ranging upto 15 days are now visiting the doorsteps of slum dwellers and attend to them. **This is a major breakthrough in Health Care Delivery System inaugurated in this State.** This system came timely when unprecedented floods overtook the city 15 days after the scheme was introduced. 102 units went into action for preventive inoculation inside the city. A total of 6.11 lakhs among 8 lakhs of slum dwellers were inoculated within 15 days, a major portion being covered within 10 days. The rest of the inoculations was continued by the Public Health and the Medical Departments. This prevented a major catastrophe of cholera outbreak in the city.



When there was sudden floods in Madras last November and urgent need arose to cover 6 lakhs with Cholera inoculations the 102 medical units did the job without loss of time.

The dreaded infectious disease of smallpox which used to take a heavy toll of lives in the past has been totally eradicated in this state. Zero status in smallpox incidence has been achieved and Tamil Nadu was the first State to achieve this distinction in the country. The staff allotted for the purpose of eradication of smallpox, however, continues to be vigilant.

The problem of malaria has been controlled due to timely measures and surveillance activities undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu since 1st April 1976. The State Malaria Eradication Committee which had been constituted in 1966 but had not met was reconstituted with Adviser Mr. R. V. Subrahmanian, as the Chairman in March 1976 and continues to meet every month to initiate measures to combat this scourge. Due to constant surveillance activities and anti-malarial measures, the incidence of malaria has been brought down to a considerable extent. The help of voluntary organisations, the National Student Service Corps, etc., are being increasingly obtained to supplement and complement the efforts of the Government in this regard.

As part of the National Leprosy Programme, the State Government has launched a special drive from March 1976 to control the spread of leprosy and to provide modern treatment and facilities for leprosy patients. So far, 5.25 lakhs of cases have been recorded out of a total of 7.5 lakhs of estimated cases. During 1976-77, the Government sanctioned Rs. 60.53 lakhs worth schemes relating to setting up of leprosy control units, upgradation of old units into full-fledged control units, provision of urban leprosy centres ; construction of temporary hospitalisation wards for leprosy patients and the setting up of reconstructive surgery units. **A new scheme, sanctioned in 1976 relates to check-up of school children to detect early cases of leprosy.** In this system teachers and para-medical workers along with a team of doctors would examine school and pre-school children in balwadis and provide effective treatment.

TWO LAKHS CHILDREN COVERED BY VITAMIN 'A' THERAPY

Agitated by the survey report which indicated that nearly 2 lakhs children in Tamil Nadu were progressively becoming blind due to malnutrition and deficiency of Vitamin A, the Prime Minister sanctioned a donation of Rs. 2 lakhs as part of relief measures from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in the middle of 1976. Utilising this donation, the Tamil Nadu Government have sanctioned the implementation of a scheme towards the prevention and control of blindness among children in one block in each district where the Applied Nutrition Programme is not in operation. The district health officer and the mass media officer are in charge of the programme. Para-medical workers and community-level workers will carry out the nutrition and health education activities, identify deficiency diseases, distribute vitamin 'A' solution to all beneficiaries and educate people to add greens to their diet.

The Medical Services Department has been paying increased attention to provide medical care to the tribal population. Special schemes for opening of hospitals, primary health centres, and dispensaries have been sanctioned in the last one year aimed to benefit tribal population and those released from the bonded labour. One such special scheme relates to provision of medical facilities in hill areas. In Kalrayan Hills, for tribes who have been liberated from bonded labour as a part of the 20-Point economic programme, the Government sanctioned the establish ment of a mobile medical unit to serve the tribals, increased the laboratory facilities in three taluk hospitals at Kallakurichi, Harur and Athur, and appointed three health inspectors for immunising children and for looking after the hygienic and environmental problems in these areas.

Tamil Nadu has always been in the forefront in the implementation of the family planning programme. However, this received a considerable fillip after the ushering in of the President's Rule. The measures to be taken to sustain the programme are being discussed at every meeting to review the progress of the 25-point programme.

By means of persuasion in the midst of rural folk Tamil Nadu has achieved remarkable success in Family Planning Programme.

The Government of India fixed a target of 5 lakhs sterilisation operations, 35,500 IUD insertions, 1,47,500 conventional Contraceptives and other methods to this state for the year 1976-77. The achievement till now is as follows :

Sterilisation	...	5,15,678
I.U.D.	..	26,891
C.C. Users	..	1,42,321

In view of the limited facilities available in the Government medical institutions, this Government is laying stress on the camp concept and this has been producing significant results. Taking advantage of this, the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Round Table, etc., have been running camps within Madras City and in the mofussil towns with success. They have also appealed to their branches in the districts to run special camps, enlisting the co-operation of local Government institutions and voluntary agencies in the villages.

Special camps were run by industrialists, like Binny and Company, Madras Cements, Port Trust, Dock Labour Board etc., with encouraging results. **A special feature of these camps was that great attention was paid to after-care facilities, which served as an encouragement to others to follow.** Voluntary bodies, youth and Madhar Sangams are also involved in this programme.

Sugar industries have been asked to run special camps of 10 to 15 days duration for the benefit of factory workers, as well as a large number of sugarcane growers and their employees. A striking feature of the programme in Tamil Nadu is the acceptance of family planning concept by all religious minorities. They have come forward in fairly large numbers to adopt the programme and undergo sterilisation.

Special incentives and disincentives have been devised for Government servants, members of the general public, local body institutions, etc., to adopt this programme. So far as Government servants are concerned, grant of maternity leave, travelling allowance, grant of medical benefits are limited to the first three children. Recently, the Govern ment has announced the grant of one advance increment to non-gazetted Government servants who or whose spouses undergo sterilisation. Several other measures to give a boost to the programme through Government servants are under consideration.

A notable feature of the Family Planning programme this year is increased emphasis on maternal and child health schemes. We have made good progress in implementing these maternal and child health schemes successfully in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has already achieved a birth-rate of 29 per 1000 by now. It is well set to reach the target of the National Population Policy in good measure by achieving a fall in birthrate to 25 per 1000 by the end of the Fifth Plan period.

20-Point Programme A Stock-Taking Review

By

Thirumathi RATHI VINAY JHA, I.A.S.,
Joint Secretary, Public Department.

Taking stock of the achievements over the last year in Tamil Nadu, it can be said with conviction that the State has benefited largely from the atmosphere of discipline and purposefulness generated during the emergency to improve its economic development.

The 20-point programme, which was announced at a time when the socio-economic development of the country had to be speeded up to face the challenges of a developing economy, was effectively implemented in Tamil Nadu only after the introduction of President's rule. In one year, remarkable progress was achieved all round.

The very first problem that had to be tackled on a war-footing was to arrest the trend in spiralling prices of essential commodities. Systematic action was initiated in the shape of increased food production, a streamlined public distribution system and stern action against hoarders and blackmarketeers to combat inflation. As a result, prices of rice and other essential commodities have been kept within reasonable levels. The price of boiled rice (medium), the staple diet, ranges from Rs. 1.60 to Rs. 2 a kg. today as against Rs. 1.47 to Rs. 2.50 a kg. a year ago. Special attention was paid to supply of essential commodities to the weaker sections and to students. With the regular supply of rice, wheat products and sugar at controlled rates to the students' hostels attached to educational institutions, the mess rates in hostels this year are about 15 to 20 per cent less than the corresponding rates last year.

Agricultural production had to be given a special thrust on account of its being the largest single contributor to the income of the state. Keeping this in mind, sustained efforts have been taken to increase agricultural production by optimising the use of fertilizers, improvement of agronomic practices, adopting better water management techniques, continued use of high yielding varieties of seeds and introduction of multiple cropping in dry areas.

Tamil Nadu has the distinction of having the highest average yield per acre in paddy and efforts are directed towards maintaining this lead by proper application of fertilizers and continuing to have large area under high-yielding varieties with the necessary package of practices adopted.

Increased emphasis has been laid on the completion of on-going medium and minor irrigation schemes. Budgetary allocations for these schemes have been substantially stepped up ; 18,000 hectares are to be brought under new irrigation through major and medium irrigation schemes. The progress so far has been according to schedule and it is even expected to over reach the target and achieve an irrigation coverage of 21,383.6 hectares. Up to the end of December 1976, 7.677 lakhs of pump-sets were energised, which is the highest for any state. As against the target of energising 35,000 pump-sets during 1976-77, 36,093 pump-sets were energised up to the end of January, 1977.

With careful and determined management and discipline, the government has succeeded in operating the thermal stations in the state at over twice the levels reached in 1975. This has helped to avert a power cut of larger proportions and the state has been able to tide over the power crisis with a nominal power cut of 25 per cent with relaxations and exemptions to a number of categories of essential industries and small scale units.

In the interests of social justice and equitable distribution of wealth, agricultural land ceiling and speedier distribution of surplus lands have been given due importance. Since February, 1976, 13,580 acres have been assigned, benefiting 9,709 persons, of whom 4,998 belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Following successive droughts in the state, a law for protection of tenants from eviction by way of a Presidential Act was promulgated in August 1976. No tenant can be evicted on the ground of arrears of rent up to January 15, 1978 for arrears accruing upto June 30, 1976. The question of conferment of ownership rights on cultivating tenants is also under active consideration.

Bonded labour, a relic of the feudal past, was still prevalent in some parts of the state. It is indeed creditable that the identification of bonded labour was given prime importance and since February, 1976, 2,870 bonded labourers in 2,251 families have been freed in the various districts of Tamil Nadu. Most of them have been rehabilitated by assigning cultivable lands, providing ad hoc employment and giving subsidiary farming assistance. Measures are under way to rehabbilitate the rest. Under the scheme to abolish bonded labour, a multi-pronged development programme had been launched in the Kalrayan hills. Under the tribal subplan, schemes relating to agriculture, khadi and village industries, animal husbandry and social welfare departments had been sanctioned to the tune of Rs. 1.95 lakhs. Under these schemes, nine balvadis had been opened. So far, 353 children had been admitted to the balvadis.

Housing Weaker Sections

Housing for the poor, a basic necessity, was a sector that needed more attention. After the introduction of President's rule in the state, assignment of house-sites in rural areas to the houseless poor by way of regularisation of unobjectionable encroachments is being done very systematically on a time bound and priority basis. Since February, 1976, 1,69,992 housesites have been assigned. These include 38,134 to scheduled castes and 2,009 to scheduled tribes. Regularisation of 57,000 unobjectionable encroachments is targetted for this year.

In order to provide adequate relief to the weaker sections of the society from indebtedness, a moratorium on the recovery of the earlier debts of agriculturists and non-agriculturists was promulgated. The moratorium has been continued upto 16.7.1977. The Tamil Nadu Debt Relief Act, 1976 cancels in one stroke the debts of landless agricultural labourers, rural artisans and small farmers whose annual household income does not exceed Rs. 2,400.

Proposals for extending debt relief operations, scaling down of debts of other categories and promotion of a positive movement in the community for self reliance in the matter of consumption credit through co-operatives and commercial banks are contemplated.

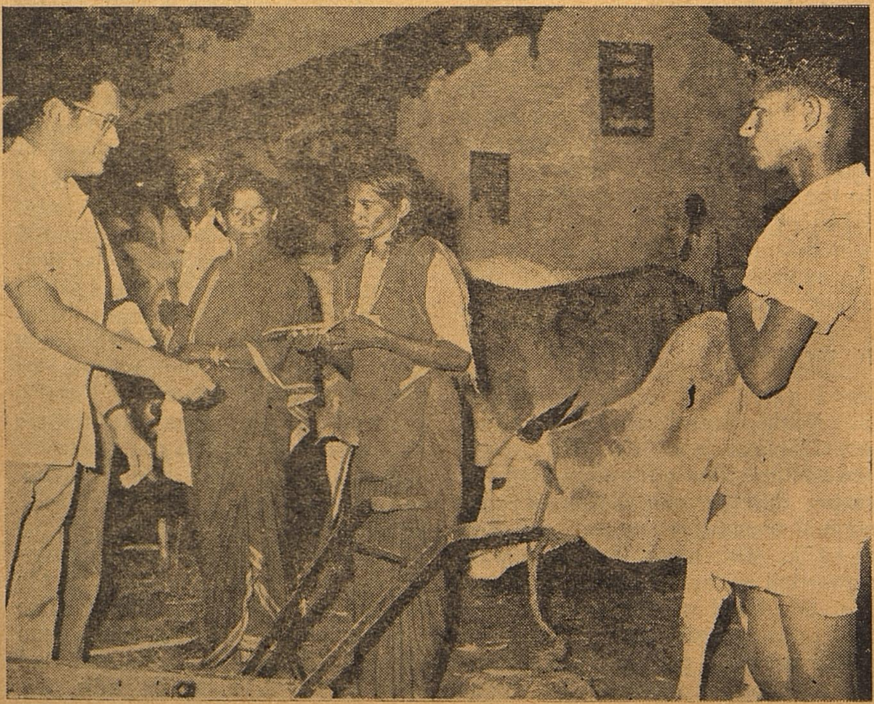
The minimum wages Act for agricultural labourers (wages were enhanced in March 1976) ensure adequate wages for the labourers. This Act was followed by a notification issued in November, 1976 by which the employers who had paid wages at rates higher than the minimum wages were required to continue to pay at the higher rates. Necessary machinery for the implementation of these wages has been created in the districts.

The handloom sector has a unique status in Tamil Nadu by virtue of its providing employment to more than two million people. Since February, 1976, 117 new weavers' co-operative societies have been organised and 22,100 weavers brought into the co-operative fold from the private sector.

Cloth for Millions

The distribution of controlled cloth through co-operative societies has been streamlined, so as to ensure that about 75 per cent of the allotment reaches the rural areas. There are 4,713 distribution points for the sale of this cloth, out of which 4,035 are in rural areas. To make controlled cloth, especially sarees and dhoties, more acceptable to the consuming public, production of standard cloth dhoties and sarees on handlooms has been started : 55,000 sarees and one lakh dhoties are targetted to be distributed every month.

Helping the Weaker Sections to stand on their own is the key-note of 20-Point Plan - Adviser P. K. Dave is seen distributing milch cattle to marginal farmers.



Book banks have been organised in all the schools, numbering about 33,726 and in 245 professional and arts colleges; 1,02,455 college students and 8,,19,162 school students have benefitted under this scheme.

Under the scheme of utilisation of craftsmen apprentices' places, as against 9,057 training places located, 9,364 places have actually been utilised. Out of 9,364 apprentices, 221 are women apprentices and 4,132 belong to backward classes and minorities and 38 are physically handicapped. The actual achievement is 103 per cent.

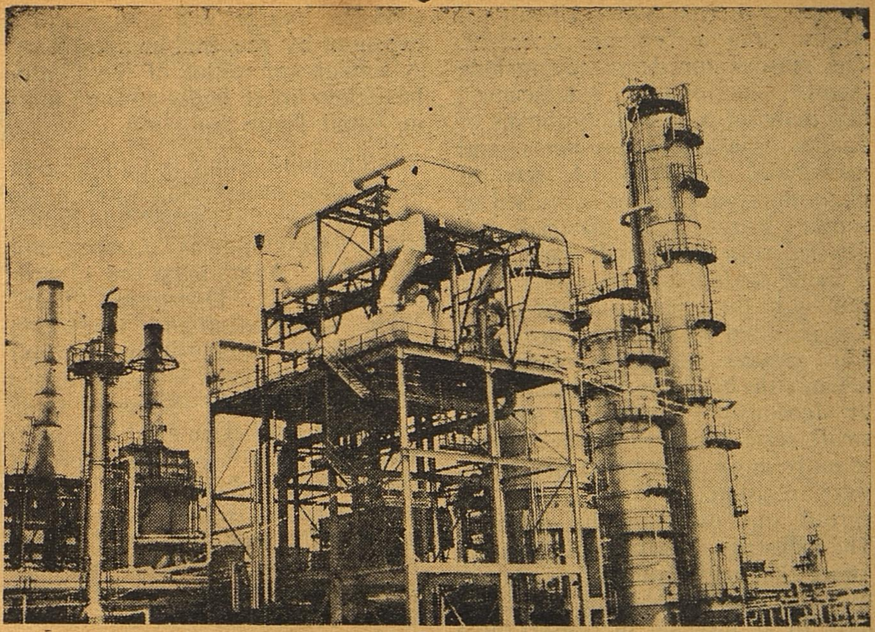
The Government of Tamil Nadu has realised that only by expanding facilities for non-formal education can the goal of universal literacy be achieved. Hence, the government have created a separate Directorate of Non-Formal Education in March, 1976 and this Directorate is actively engaged in a number of activities to eradicate illiteracy.

Tree Planting

Even though large areas of the, state suffered from severe drought some of them for two or three years running, and the south-west monsoon of 1976 was very much below average, a target of 40 lakh saplings for 1976-77 was fixed under the tree planting campaign. By the end of December, 1976, 55.40 lakh saplings have been planted in the state. The state council for tree planting has been formed uuder the chairmanship of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Various incentives have been proposed and measures taken to make the tree planting programme in the state a grand success.

There has been uniform progress on almost all aspects of economic development in Tamil Nadu since the introduction of President's rule. Fifty five per cent of the annual plan outlay for the state in 1976-77 was spent on items under the 20-point programme. It is but a reasonable expectation that with the successful and effective implementation of the 20-point programme and the 5-point social programme, a new and just society will be born. If the same spirit of devotion to duty and the sense of responsibility and discipline so far shown by the people from all walks of life during the past one year are continued in the years to come, Tamil Nadu will march ahead to a better tomorrow.

Industrial Development Spreads Far & Wide



A view of Manali Oil refinery.

BY

T. N. SESHAN, I.A.S.,
SECRETARY
INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

THE Fifties and the early Sixties witnessed a phenomenal growth of industry in Tamil Nadu. A remarkable feature of this growth was the expansion and diversification of different types of industry, new lines of manufacture as well as the production of many sophisticated items.

This growth was not confined to any particular sector but covered the public, as well as the private and also the small scale sector. Entrepreneurship was actively promoted, the state playing a supporting role. In many sectors of industry Tamil Nadu came to occupy a truly important national position as, for example, in cement, automobile ancilaries light engineering, etc.

However, in the last few years the place of industrial investment in Tamil Nadu had slowed down. Heavy power cuts and inadequate demands for many industrial products and consumer durables contributed their share to slowing down of industrial growth. The major task after the imposition of President's rule in the state was to provide the stimulus for industry and to explore new avenues of advancement. In every area constraints had to be identified in order that efforts are made in the right direction to revive the rate of industrial growth. Undoubtedly, existing capacity must be utilized and higher productivity achieved. In respect of mineral resources, Tamil Nadu is not as well endowed as other parts of the country. But Tamil Nadu possesses a highly trained and disciplined manpower.

Spring Board

This base can provide the springboard for entrepreneurship with progressive sophistication of technology. These factors would also indicate that our growth should be in areas of high-value-added products like high precision engineering, electronics, basic and fine chemicals, sophisticated machinery, finished leather and leather goods. In keeping with national policy the state is moving away from export of raw materials and semi-finished goods to that of finished goods.

Leather

Accordingly one area which is now receiving the attention of state agencies for industrial promotion is that of leather. This industry contributes the highest quantum of foreign exchange and employs over 500,000 workers who belong mostly to the weaker sections of society. With two thirds of the country's leather units located in Tamil Nadu alone, the state's share in the export is 85 per cent. If the national export target of finished leather set at Rs. 600 crores a year is to be achieved, finished facilities have to be created on a large scale in Tamil Nadu. While the Centre has decided to set up one service centre in Tamil Nadu by allotting Rs. 25 lakhs, the state government has identified 10 locations where similar facilities will need to be set up. It is proposed to utilise the Central assistance as seed money to set up five centres which would be implemented as industrial cooperatives.

The other sector which has been identified for a special effort is the electronics industry. To ensure a systematic and rapid growth it was found necessary to work out a plan which would include proposals for setting up of electronics industry directly by the government or in the joint sector. In addition, service support would have to be provided to private entrepreneurs. Product lines would be identified along with the required manpower. The plan would have to take into account the existing industry as well as infrastructural facilities not only in the field of electronics but also allied areas like materials technology, tools testing and development and quality control. With these objectives in view, the government constituted a committee in July 1976 which has now submitted its report. The report is under the consideration of the government and the accepted recommendations will be implemented expeditiously.

While the organised sector, both large and medium, is receiving attention, the rapid development of small scale industries has also been undertaken. There are approximately

38,000 registered units already of which quite a few are dormant. The reasons for dormancy include factors like process insufficiency, raw material problems, problems of finance, marketing problems and managerial problems. A few of these units were earlier organised to corner scarce raw materials. A detailed review of small scale units is being undertaken to assess their capability for revival and the remedies required by those not working. This process which commenced a few months back has now been taken up vigorously. In the drive for new small scale units which concluded recently more than 8,000 new units were registered. These units are spread out over all the districts. **The industries department is only too aware that registration is merely the first step and considerable effort will have to be directed to convert these units into productive units. This effort has been taken up vigorously and inputs like infrastructure and raw materials are being provided.**

The development of the handloom sector which is an important element of the 20 point programme has been taken up vigorously. Over 30 per cent of the four-and-ahalf lakh weavers in the state are already under the co-operative umbrella. Another 30 per cent will be brought into the fold in the next three years. The Co-operative spinning mills are being expanded to meet the weavers' requirements of yarn. Other inputs like dyes, chemicals, processing are being organised. The marketing organisation i.e., Cooptex, has been geared up to handle an increase in annual turn-over from Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 25 crores. New projects for handlooms have been taken up at Karur, Erode and Kancheepuram which will cover the weavers outside the co-operative fold.

Sick Mills

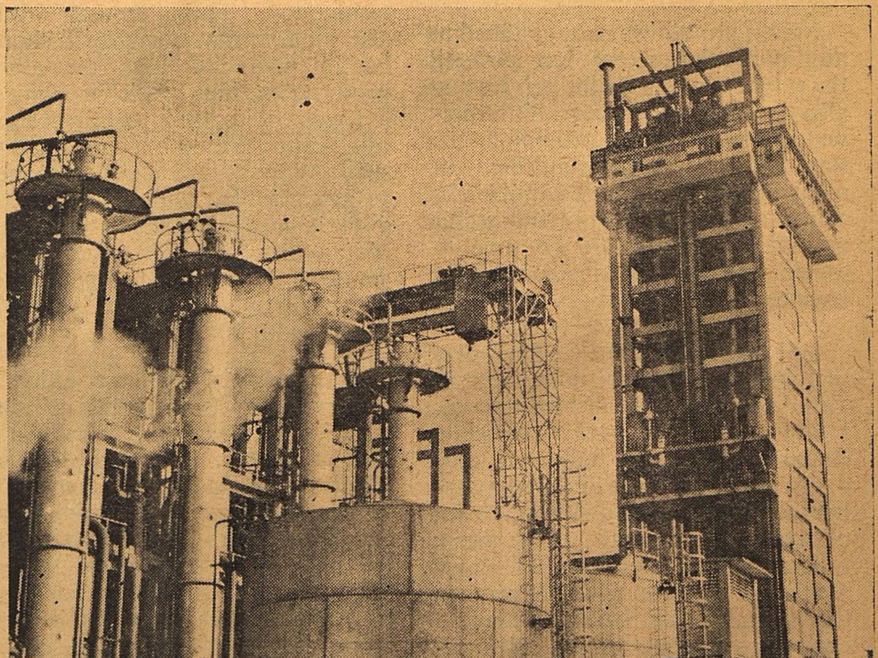
While new industry is being fostered in a variety of areas, the state government has given close attention to the problems of existing industry. In order to study the problems of sick textile mills and restart closed mills, the government has constituted a state-level committee which has assessed the situation in 29 mills and has recommended, among other things, financial assistance, government guarantee, postponement of dues, modernisation of machinery and reduction in over head charges and administrative expenses by the mill management. A similar committee of the Centre has taken up 16 badly-affected mills in Tamil Nadu for study.

The joint sector is another area where new achievements are being chalked up by the Tamil Nadu Industrial, Development Corporation (TIDCO). Apart from the 12 projects like SPIC, Dynavision. Tamil Nadu Chromates and Chemicals etc. that are already in production, 12 more projects are in various stages of implementation. Some of these are Tamil Nadu Chemical Products. Arkonam Castings and Forging Limited, Tamil Nadu Fluorine and Allied Chemicals Ltd. Other projects for the manufacture of resins, drugs, magnesium metal etc. are under consideration. In the public sector, TIDCO has just commenced work on its new Rs. 20 crore cement plant at Ariyalur.

The sugar industry is receiving a fresh impetus with the coming up of a number of new units in addition to the existing factories in the private and co-operative sectors. Two co-operative units at Tirupattur Vellore and one at Thanjavur in the public sector are almost ready after having been completed in record time. Another mill at Perambalur will be ready later in 1977. Work is about to commence on yet another mill at Sankarankoil. From February 1976 onwards, the sugar directorate geared up its efforts towards development of cane and supply of other inputs for the co-operative sugar mills.

With reference to the 20-point programme, greater attention is focussed on creating more employment opportunities through industrial co-operatives. In 1976-77 industrial co-operatives societies were started to provide employment to more than 1,000 artisans and technicians. In Tiruchi district about 210 bonded labourers engaged in gem cutting were freed and two new gem cutting societies were formed at Vadassari and Tirupanjeeli. In Ramnad district 17 match workers co-operative societies were formed with a government share capital contribution of Rs. 1.60 lakhs. A common facility centre for leather finishing has been organised at Vaniambadi at a cost of Rs. 41.50 lakhs. Two new co-operative tea factories in Nilgiris district have been commissioned.

Urea Plant, Neyveli.



MAJOR THRUST BY CO-OPERATIVES

The year 1976-77 witnessed a multipronged thrust by the Co-operatives of Tamil Nadu in improving their services to the people.

When the term co-operation is mentioned, one thinks mostly of co-operative credit movement. In Tamil Nadu, it is estimated that there are around 54 lakhs of agricultural families. As on 31-1-1976 only 27.98 lakhs of those families were enrolled in the co-operatives. An enrolment campaign was therefore launched. The campaign was fairly successful, in that, as on 30-11-1976, 35.84 lakhs of families are covered under the co-operative umbrella and in this extended coverage of 7.86 lakhs of families, 6.07 lakhs of families are small farmers, marginal farmers and landless tenants. Thus, the main tenet of the 20-Point Programme, *viz.*, to help the weak and downtrodden, was translated into action in the enrolment programme.

Credit Advances :

Mere enrolment is not meaningful unless it is followed by a quantitative and qualitative improvement in the agricultural credit advanced to the cultivators. In March, 1976, the credit advanced was only Rupees 100 crores. The programme is to advance 115 crores by March, 1977. Between February and November, 1976, a total sum of Rs. 81 crores has been advanced and of this nearly 46% was issued to the weaker sections. The qualitative improvement in the agricultural credit advances is reflected in the nexus that has been firmly established between the area under cultivation of a particular crop and the proporнate share in the total loans issued by a society to that crop. This qualitative improvement becomes evident if the credit advanced by Salem Central Co-operative Bank is examined as an example. This Bank in 1975 had given maximum advances to crops like Tapioca, Plaintain and sugarcane as compared to Paddy and groundnut. It was alleged that these crops were favoured as the cash-components of the advances given for these crops was fairly substantial. So even cultivators who might have sown paddy claimed assistance as if it was a Tapioca crop.

A systematic study was therefore initiated by the Special Officer with reference to the actual acreage sown as noted in the village Revenue accounts and the pattern of lending was based on the verification of the actual acreage of crop sown. The results as shown below are quite revealing :

Name of the crop	*Advances from* 1-4-76 *to* 31-10-76		*Advances from* 1-4-75 *to* 31-12-75	
	Acre	*Amount (Rupees in lakhs)*	*Acre*	*Amount (Rupees in lakhs)*
Tapioca	9,848	83.71	49,742	339.37
Sugarcane	6,351	76.58	8,087	98.98
Paddy	19,492	137.93	2,139	11.51
Groundnut	30,173	102.13	1,566	7.83
Plantain	880	21.06	5,039	62.98

Yet another qualitative improvement was the operation "weed out" introduced to liquidate the non-viable and dormant co-operative societies. To illustrate there were 2,442 Lift Irrigation Societies, most of which had not even started functioning. It was seen that only 123 of these societies had some scope to work profitably. Action was taken to wind up all except these 123 societies.

Recently Government have also amended the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act so as to facilitate quick amalgamation of Co-operative Societies by the Registrar if public interest requires such amalgamation.

Selvi M.S. RAMESH I.A.S.,
Secretary,
Co-operation Department.

The Co-operatives in Tamil Nadu continued to play a prominent role in supplying essential commodities to the public. Out of 9,000 retail outlets distributing essential commodities. 7,000 are run by Co-operatives. To help the Primary Societies play a more significant role in this regard, Government have come forward and guaranteed repayment of the advances taken by the Societies for the consumer business from the Central Co-operative Banks, upto Rs. 7 crores.

The State has also taken full advantage of the N.C.D.C. sponsored Rural Consumer Scheme. The scheme provides for strengthening the share capital base of the wholesale store and provides financial assistance for purchase of furniture and a vehicle for quick transportation of goods. Ten projects costing Rs. 13.88 lakhs were sanctioned under this scheme in March, 1976. This linked 232 primary societies with wholesale consumer stores. Fifteen more such projects, involving 325 village credit societies and 12 wholesale stores with a total financial assistance of 18.86 lakhs

of rupees has also been sanctioned recently. Further 43 consumer co-operative societies were sanctioned a margin money of Rs. 29 lakhs so as to enable them to get larger bank credit from financing banks for distributing essential commodities. It is evident that the Co-operatives have played a significant role in consumer trade, as the value of consumer articles sold through the Co-operative stores which amounted to only 120.93 crores of rupees in 1974-75 went upto Rs. 144.65 crores of rupees in 1975-76 and in the period from July 1976 to September 1976 it was Rs. 48.65 crores. If the same tempo is maintained, it is likely that the total turnover of the consumer co-operatives may reach 200 crores of rupees in 1976-77.

Controlled Cloth :

In Tamil Nadu, controlled cloth is distributed only through the Co-operatives. The number of retail outlets for distribution of this controlled cloth went up from 4,276 in the beginning of 1976 to 4,687 by the end of 1976. Of these 4,007 are in the rural areas. Between February to November, 1976, 15,342 bales of cloth were distributed through these outlets. Government of India also sanctioned 9.28 lakhs of rupees as margin money to 35 co-operatives for raising additional working capital for distributing controlled cloth.

In the beginning of the year only 195 hostels were being catered to by the consumer co-operatives. By December, 1976 this number grew to 240. Because of the price differential when supply is effected through the co-operatives, not only have the mess bills of the students shown significant downward trend, the students also have had the satisfaction of getting unadulterated quality goods. To help the college students, who do not have the facility of staying at home and having cheap messing facilities, action had been initiated in 1976 to establish common kitchen centres through the college co-operative consumer stores. Recently Government of India have sanctioned one such common centre to be set up in the campus of Thiagaraja College of Engineering at Madurai. It is hoped that many more such common kitchens would spring up in all the Colleges in the State.

Consumption Loans touch New Peak of Rs. 45 Crores

Pioneering Role of Tamil Nadu Co-operatives

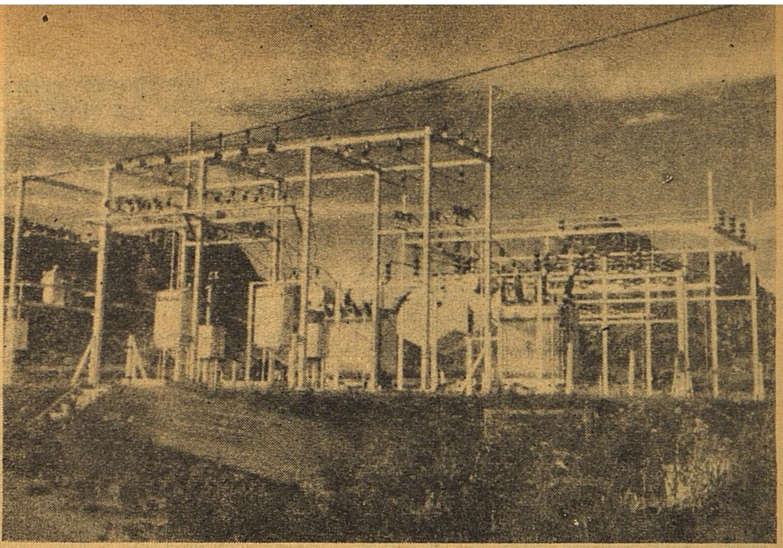
Books and Stationery :

Yet another significant first to the credit of the co-operative movement in this State was the distribution of nationalised text-books. Hitherto, the work was done by the private trade and there were complaints of delayed lifting of books and consequential failure or make available the books in time for the academic year. The co-operatives therefore, took up the challenging task and it is gratifying to find that the very first year 169 lakhs of books valued at Rs. 2.55 crores were distributed through the Co-operative outlets, to the students and the whole operation was completed well in time and much ahead of school reopening dates. A special quota of 400 tonnes of paper was obtained from the Government of India at concessional rates and were converted into exercise notebooks and supplied to the students at cost prices.

The introduction of the Debt Relief and Moratorium Legislation and the consequent shrinkage in availability of consumption finance from the traditional sources like Pawn Brokers and Money Lenders has led to the Co-operatives shouldering greater responsibility in the sensitive field of provision of consumption finance. In the period from 1-2-76 to 30-11-76, the Co-operative Urban Banks have advanced as jewel loans 20.12 crores of rupees to 3.45 lakhs of persons. In the Rural Areas, the Central Co-operative Banks have stepped up the issue of consumption loan through their branches and major agricultural credit co-operatives. Bewteen 1-2-76 and 30-11-76 these societies have issued jewel loans to the extent of 11.22 crores of rupees to 1.88 lakhs of beneficiaries. Thus, the average monthly issue of jewel loans by all the co-operatives, which was of the order of only 11.82 crores of rupees prior to 1-2-76 has been stepped up to 31.3 crores of rupees by November, 1976.

The Co-operatives also undertook to advance consumption loans on personal security through the Agricultural Credit Societies to the weaker sections of agricultural community *i.e.*, farmers owning less than 2.5 acres of irrigated or 5 acres of dry land, landless tenants and labourers and artisans. These consumption loans were limited to amounts ranging from Rs. 75 to Rs. 250 for the purposes like marriages, medical expenses and funerals. The consumption loans advanced by the Cooperatives are not refinanced by the Reserve Bank of India. Yet, the co-operative Banks in Tamil Nadu have been unhesitatingly shouldering this burden out of an awareness of their national responsibility to provide consumption loans to weaker sections of society. It is expected that in 1976-77 the co-operatives may be advancing between 40 to 45 crores of rupees as consumption loans as against only 22 crores of rupees issued during 1975-76. In this respect the Co-operative Movement in Tamil Nadu is playing a pioneering role.

GAINS ON THE POWER FRONT



By

C.N. RAGHAVAN, I.A.S.,

Secretary,

Public Works Department

The investment on power is almost a pace setter for economic progress and prosperity. The outlay on power has been significantly stepped up in 1976-77. As against an approved outlay of Rs. 29.50 crores in 1974-75 and Rs. 40 crores in 1975-76, the outlay for the current year is Rs. 70.18 crores, this being more than the provision in the last two years taken together. The total outlay for power is proposed to be further increased to Rs. 94.1 crores in 1977-78. The allocation for generation projects alone has been enhanced to Rs. 43.7 crores as against an annual average of Rs. 17 crores in order to support adequately the project activities in the on-going schemes.

The year 1976 witnessed successful completion of three generation schemes, *viz.*, Ennore Thermal Extension (110 Mega watts), near Madras, Naduvattam Diversion Scheme (69 million units) in Nilgiris District and Kuttiar Pumping Scheme (40 million units) in Kanyakumari District.

Among the schemes taken up for construction, the benefits from Kundah IV stage, Suruliar Hydro Electricity Scheme and Tuticorin are expected in the Vth Plan (before the end of 1978-79).

Kundah IV stage scheme envisages installation of a third 60 mega watts unit at Kundah Power House 3 and a second 50 Mega Watts unit at Kundah Power House 4. Estimated to cost Rs. 11.64 crores, the scheme located in Coimbatore district is targetted for completion in 1977-78.

Suruliar Scheme envisages utilisation of run-off flows of Suruliar with a catchment area of 39 sq. Km. of Suruliar, Eravangalar etc., in Madurai district. Estimated to cost Rs. 19.41 crores, the scheme is targetted for completion in 1978-79.

Tuticorin Thermal Scheme envisages the establishment of a thermal station at Tuticorin with a capacity of 2 X 210 MW initially and 630 MW ultimately. Estimated to cost Rs. 140.86 crores, the scheme is targetted for completion in 1978-79 (first unit).

As against Rs. 2.43 crores spent for Suruliar Scheme during 1975-76 the expenditure in 1976-77 has been Rs. 3.74 crores upto December, 1976. Similarly, the expenditure for Pandiar-Punnapuzha Scheme has been increased from Rs. 24 lakhs in 1975-76 to Rs. 73 lakhs for nine months in 1976-77. The effort in respect of Tuticorin Project has been given additional thrust. The outlay has been stepped up from Rs. 11 crores in 1975-76 to Rs. 34·5 crores in 1976-77. This is to be further enhanced to Rs. 43 crores for 1977-78.

The investment on transmission and distribution progress has been only of the order of about Rs. 10 crores in a year. This has been stepped up to Rs. 15 crores during 1976-77, keeping in view the enhanced physical programme targetted to be achieved. As against the total 14 Nos. sub-stations and 14 Nos. EHT lines with a total length of 196 KM erected during the previous three years, the target for the year is to erect 26 Nos. sub-stations and 15 Nos. E.H.T. lines with a total length of 340 Km. The accent is on ensuring adequate facilities for satisfactory and stabilised supply conditions in the grid. To meet the requirements of consumers, an ambitious programme for 1977-78 has been drawn up to erect 28 Nos. sub-stations and 20 Nos. E.H.T. lines with a total length of 408 Km. The financial outlay has been fixed at Rs. 28.5 crores indicative of the anxiety of the Board and the government to correct the imbalance in the grid.

In view of the urgent need to maximise the utilisation of the existing capacities, concerted efforts were taken to revamp the units at Ennore Thermal Station which was plagued with a series of troubles since 1970. With the closest co-operation and association of the suppliers M/s. B.H.E.L. and expertise available with the Central Electricity Authority, the trouble spots were identified, remedial measures initiated and the units brought back to normal operation for the first time in 1976. The station as a whole has started stabilising at a time when greater contribution was expected of it. Improvement at Ennore has also off-set to a significant extent the shortfalls in hydro generation caused by unexpected monsoon failure.

The generation at Ennore during the year 1976 is 1853 M.U. as against 812 M.U. in 1975. This is certainly a record performance for Ennore. The station has touched a peak output of 400 M.W. and energy generation of 913 M.U. a day. The availability of individual units has vastly improved and the forced outage hours are being gradually brought down. A stage has come where reliable generation at Ennore at a satisfactory level is being assured.

Similar to Ennore an " Operation Basin Bridge " was also launched with satisfactory results. Though the installed capacity of the station

is 90 MW, the output of the station was generally limited to 50/55 MW in the past years due to constraints in cooling water and ageing of old boilers. By initiation of improvement measures the station output was stepped* upto 60 MW, from January, 1976. It has now reached a peak performance of 70 MW and an average output of 1.5 MU per day. The maximum output recorded is 72.6 MW and 1,675 MU a day during 1976-77.

The performance of Neyveli station has also improved as compared to last year. As against 1987 MU made available with Tamil Nadu grid during 1975-76, Neyveli was able to step up the assistance to 1941 MU in the first nine months of 1976-77 itself.

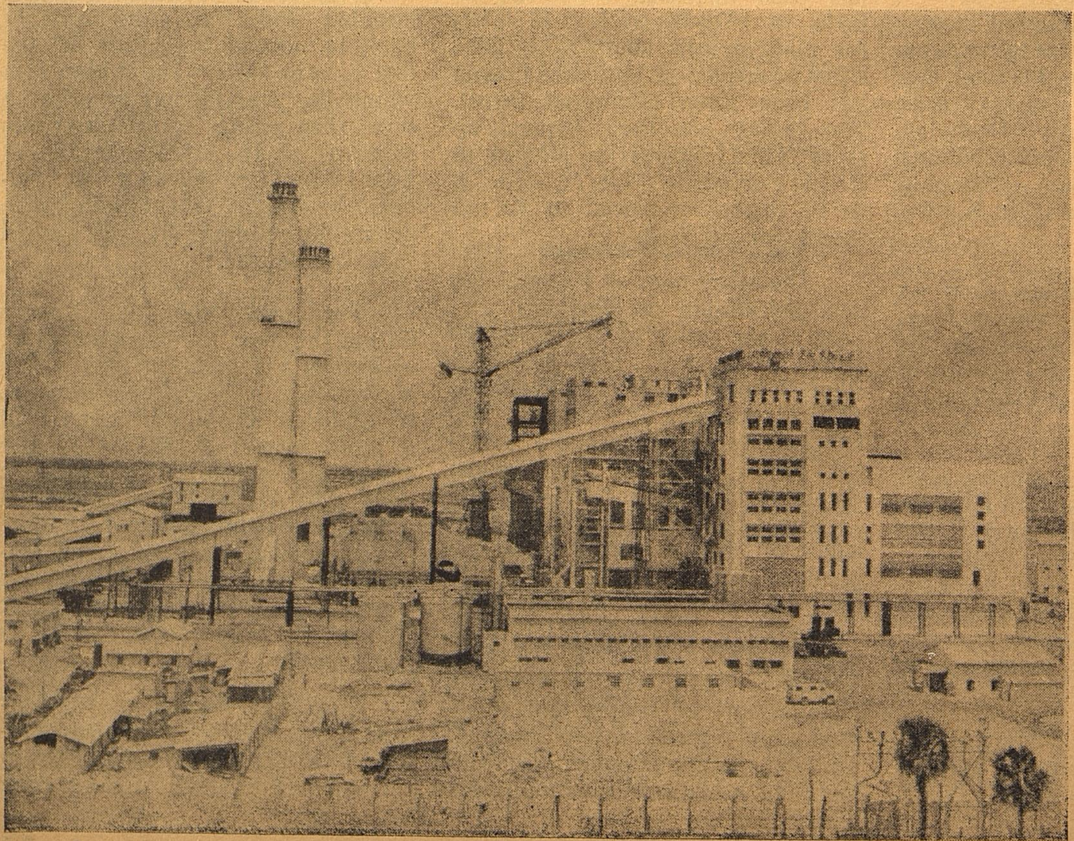
Due to unprecedented failure of the south west monsoon, the storage position in the hydel reservoirs of Tamil Nadu reached an all-time low during July, August and September, 1976. The position was such that a power cut of over 50 per cent was dictated even at the outset. However, with careful and determined management and discipline, it has been possible to operate the thermal stations of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board at over twice the level reached in 1975. This tremendous improvement in thermal generation has helped to avert a power cut of larger proportions and the State has been able to tide over the power crisis with a minimal power cut of 25 per cent to 30 per cent in energy consumption and a demand cut of 20 per cent to 40 per cent with relaxations and exemptions to a number of categories of essential industries and small scale sectors.

Electricity has given a face-lift to rural economy and life all over the country. This is particularly perceptible in Tamil Nadu, where rural electrification has almost reached a saturation point after decades of progress achieved and maintained since Independence through planned power development and distribution. The tempo is, however, sought to be kept up under the 20-Point Programme with more acres to be irrigated as the target. In all 36,093 pump sets have been energised in 1976 as against 29,280 connected during 1975. A record number of 5,770 pumpsets were energised during April, 1976. 8,064 L.T. industries have also been connected during the period.

In order to ensure undivided attention for the consumers in Madras City, the existing system has been bifurcated recently. The Madras City and its suburbs including certain areas in Chingleput district were badly affected by the unprecedented cyclone and floods in November, 1976. Supply had to be switched off in many areas as a precautionary measure to avoid accidents. Soon after the floods receded, normalcy was quickly restored. Extensive damage done to the distribution system was identified and repaired very quickly and revamping measures initiated and long-range plans for permanent improvements also drawn up, for time-bound implementation. Financial assistance from the State Government to the Electricity Board has also been assured in this connection.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is well geared to take up further programmes of expansion to augment its generating capacity so as to meet adequately the requirements of all the categories of consumers. With the commissioning of Kalpakkam Nuclear Project in 1978-79 and 1979-80 the power position is expected to ease. The State can look forward to a balanced power supply condition in future years.

The persistent demand for power in the State has always been outstripping the availability. To meet the power needs of the State in VI Plan and beyond establishment of a super thermal station (1,000 MW) is under active consideration. A favourable decision to go ahead with the project will raise the hopes and aspirations of the people of Tamil Nadu, and create a climate of confidence for future growth.



The Ennore Thermal Station which made up hydel power shortage in 1976

Welfare Schemes For The Socially Handicapped

By

G. THIRUMAL, I.A.S.,

SECRETARY, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The caste system had its origin in "Varna Dharma" of the ancient Hindus. The intention at that time was not to divide the Hindu society into numerous castes. The classification of people was based on the professional ethics but later it assumed the rigid frame of caste system.

The concept of superiority in birth appears to have developed at a later date based on certain hierarchical stratification in regard to various forms of labour. The people who were benefiting the society by contributing certain forms of labour became Untouchables in the course of time and Untouchability became an evil deeply rooted in our social system. Social Reformers, Religious Preachers and other enlightened thinkers tried to dissuade people from the evil practice of Untouchability. However, until Mahatma Gandhi's assumption of national leadership, the movement for the abolition of Untouchability did not gain the necessary momentum. Mahatma Gandhi made Harijan uplift as one of the main planks of his constructive programmes. It may be recalled that he undertook a fast unto death to ensure integration of Harijan Community into Hindu fold and to prevent their being ensnared in the separate electorate system.

To eradicate Untouchability, provisions had been made under Article 17 and 35 of the Constitution of India and in pursuance of this, Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was passed. Experience of the last decades have shown that two penal provisions of the Act were not deterrant enough and they did not yield the expected results. The Protection of Civil Rights Act which is the amended form of the original Act of 1955 makes more stringent provisions for punishments.

The Government of Tamil Nadu have taken various steps to enforce the provisions of the Civil Rights Act. The Police Department is entrusted with the responsibility for taking action or register cases under the Act. Six Mobile Squads with a staff of One Inspector, One Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and two Police Constables in each squad are functioning in six districts, where there is a concentration of Scheduled Caste population. The mobile squad commenced work in 1972 and have registered 5,046 cases upto 30-6-1976. Out of this, in 3,206 cases conviction has been given.

In order to effectively enforce the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, the Government of Tamil Nadu have constituted a State Level Committee with the Adviser as Chairman and other prominent citizens as members. A special Cell for exercising supervision over the enforcement of the provisions of the Act has been formed with a Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge. The State Publicity Department had distributed posters and handouts indicating the important provisions of the Act. The period from 14th to 21st November, 1976 was celebrated as Protection of Civil Rights Week and the objectives of the nation in providing the enactment have been widely explained to and disseminated among the public.

Untouchability leads to waste of human resources.

The spirit and the intention of the Act could be achieved only if there is change of heart among the people and the age-old prejudice is wiped out from the minds of the Caste Hindus. Harijans should also be conscious of the rights guaranteed to them and try to assert their rights more and more. People must realise that practice of untouchability leads to enormous waste of human potential and constitutes a form of ' apartheid.' It is a violation of human rights and its existence is a continuous reminder that we are not wholly a free nation with equality of opportunity for everyone.

All efforts are being made by the Tamil Nadu Government to ameliorate the living condition of Scheduled Castes and to enable them to advance faster to come upto the level of more advanced sections of the Community. The Prime Minister's "20—Point Programme" contains a number of measures which have a direct bearing on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These include provision of lands to landless Harijans, supply of essential commodities at controlled prices to Harijan students in Hostels, provision of note-books and stationery for Harijan students at controlled price, etc.

Government poramboke lands wherever available are acquired and assigned to Scheduled Tribes for cultivation purposes as well as house-sites. Where Government lands are not available, private lands are acquired and distributed as House-sites to the Harijans. From 1-2-1976 to 31-5-1976 *i.e.*, after the introduction of President's Rule in Tamil Nadu 15,457 house sites involving an extent of 771.72 acres have been acquired at a cost of Rs. 39 lakhs and distributed to the Harijans. A crash programme for provision of house-sites to all Harijans before November 1978 have been announced by the Governor of Tamil Nadu recently. This will benefit about 3 lakhs Harijans.

There are 681 hostels maintained for the Harijans and in all these hostels, essential commodities are supplied through the Civil Supplies Corporation or Co-operative Societies at control prices. There are 118 schools for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State. Within 15 days of the opening of the schools in the current academic year, 1,47,125 students studying in these schools have been supplied with text books, note-books and slates, free of cost at a total cost of Rs. 11.50 lakhs.

For the Scheduled Tribes, who form about 0.76 per cent of the total population, a Tribal Sub-Plan costing Rs. 794.65 lakhs has been drawn. This plan will be implemented in 9 areas of Tribal concentration in the 5 districts of Salem, North Arcot, South Arcot, Dharmapuri and Tiruchirapalli. During the current year,

works costing more than a crore of rupees under agriculture, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, cooperation, forestry, roads, social services etc., have been sanctioned for execution and they are in fast progress in the tribal areas.

In 1974-75, the Government set up the Tamil Nadu Harijan Housing and Development Corporation with a view to provide houses to the Harijans. This Corporation is constructing houses at a cost of Rs. 4,000 in plains and Rs. 6,000 in hilly areas. More than 33,000 houses have so far been constructed under this programme.

A scheme for the sanction of interest free loans for starting of petty trade to Scheduled Castes to better their economic conditions is in operation in this State, The amount of loans ranges from Rs. 125 to a maximum of Rs. 15,000 according to the nature of the trade. Till the end of 1975-76, 9,784 persons have been given loans to the tune of Rs. 65.45 lakhs under the scheme.

Industrial Training Centres are run by the Director of Employment and Training for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Stipends are granted to the trainees in these centres from the funds of the Harijan Welfare Department. Wherever possible, milk supply co-operative societies are also run for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Special coaching schemes are implemented to improve the employment opportunities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes such as coaching for I.A.S. and I.P.S. examinations, Group IV Services Examinations of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, training in typewriting and Shorthand, etc. There is reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to the extent of 18% of posts in the Government of Tamil Nadu both Gazetted and Non-Gazetted Service. The actual position is that about 10% of the total posts in the State have been filled up by Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as against the reservation of 18%. Eighteen per cent. of seats in Medical and Engineering Colleges are reserved for S.C. & S.T. students. The number of S.C. & S.T. students admitted to Medical and Engineering Colleges in 1976-77 are 178 and 189 respectively. The reservation system is also being adopted in the matter of admission to Industrial Training Institutes and special stipends are granted to S.C. & S.T. students.

In order to wipe out caste differences and to develop a cosmopolitan outlook in the society, intercaste marriage between Harijans and other castes are encouraged by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Gold medals at the rate of 1.5 sovereigns of 14 ct. purity is given to each couple. So far, 417 intercaste married couples have been awarded gold medals. In addition to this, a cash grant of Rs. 200/- is given to each couple for the purpose of house hold utensils. So far, 112 couples have been awarded cash grants. Government also give 3 cents of house sites to such couples in rural areas. In Madras City, the Government have decided to allot 10 tenements to such couples from among the houses constructed by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board and also plots or houses within the 10 per cent reservation made for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by Housing Board. A subsidy not exceeding Rs. 1,200/- will be given to each couple towards the purchase of these tenements or houses.

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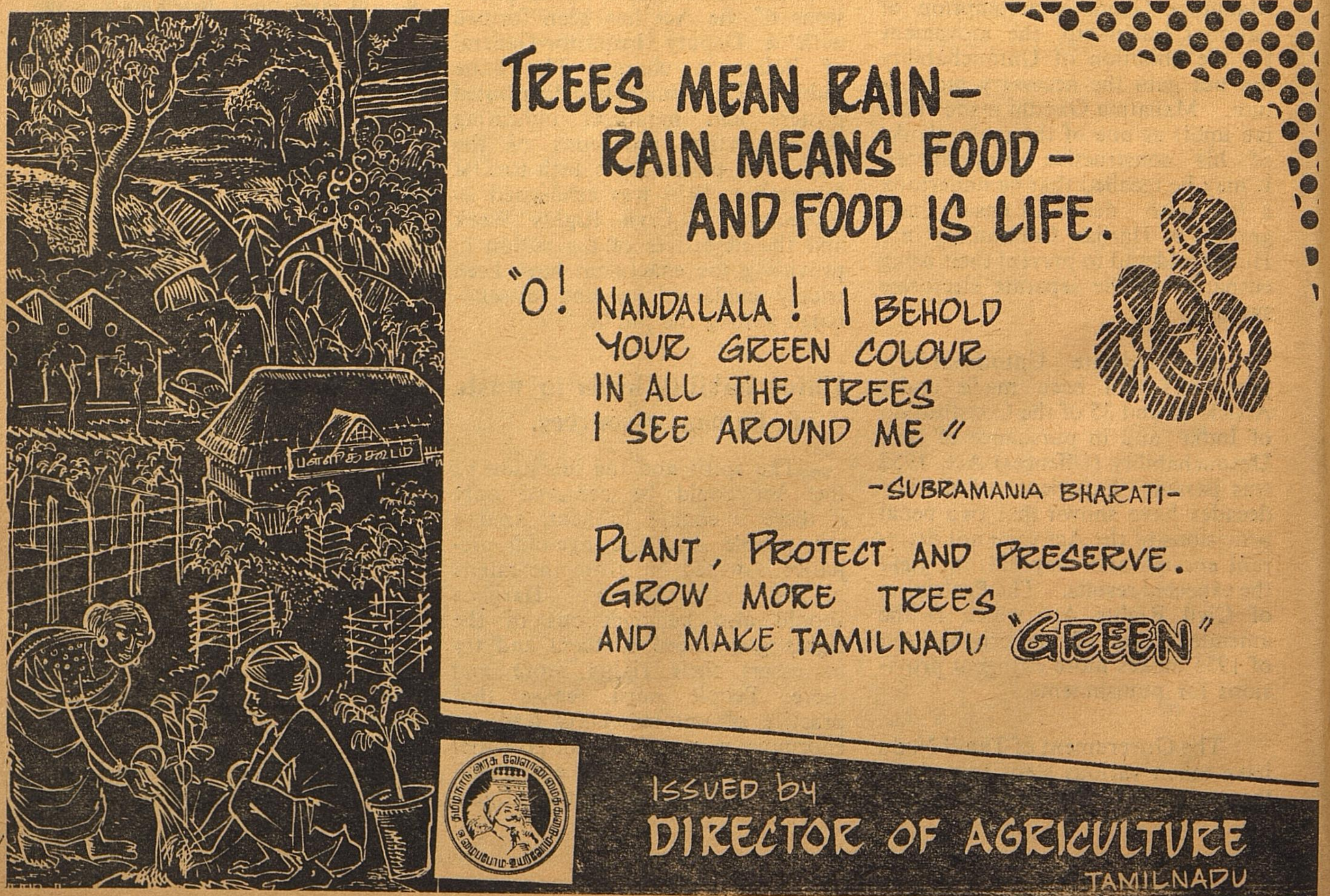


Administration of Religious Bodies

51,000 Religious Institutions Have Landed Properties

Progress of "Operation Clean-up"

By

G.S. SESHADRI

Secretary, Commercial Taxes & Religious Endowment Department

Tamil Nadu can legitimately be proud that its temples and mutts have significantly contributed to the preservation of the nation's culture and heritage. This is primarily due to the fact that the State has always considered protection of public religious endowments as one of its functions from time immemorial.

The numerous regulations starting from the Madras Regulation Act VII of 1817, culminating in the Act presently in force (Act 22 of 1959) have helped to implement this policy.

Under the 1959 Act, Hindu public religious institutions are classified as listed and non-listed. Through the exercise of powers vested in the commissioner and his subordinate officers for the appointment of trustees, for approval of dhittams, sanctioning of budgets, audit of their accounts etc. supervision is being done. The entire expenditure on the administration of the department—except for a token sum of Rs. 1,00,000 per annum given by the Government from the state funds, is met by a contribution levied on these public religious institutions ranging from two to seven per cent of their annual income, besides a further levy of one-and-a-half per cent as audit fees from institutions having an annual income of Rs. 1,000 and more. Similarly, the expenditure on the salary and allowances of the executive officers appointed for the administration of the temples and endowments is recovered in full from the institutions. As all the institutions may not have the same capacity to bear the expenditure in this connection, it has been so arranged that only those institutions which have the capacity to pay are required to meet the cost, while free service is rendered for the supervision of other institutions.

A recent survey conducted by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department revealed that there are over 51,000 religious institutions in this state having landed properties.

Public Complaints

With the ushering of the President's Rule, in the state, innumerable petitions and complaints from various sections of the public were received by the government alleging maladministration of these public religious institutions by the erstwhile trustees. The main charge was that the appointment of trustees had been politicised. Persons belonging to the then ruling party or from among their sympathisers had been appointed as trustees. Various allegations were also received about the mismanagement of the lands, buildings and sites belonging to the temples. Irregularities and favouritism in the matter of lease or sale of these lands, malpractices in the award of contracts for the construction and renovation works undertaken., diversion of temple funds for purposes totally unrelated to the endowments, discriminatory purchase of books and periodicals brought out by specific individuals and indiscriminate advertisements in party magazines were some of the major charges made against the erstwhile trustees.

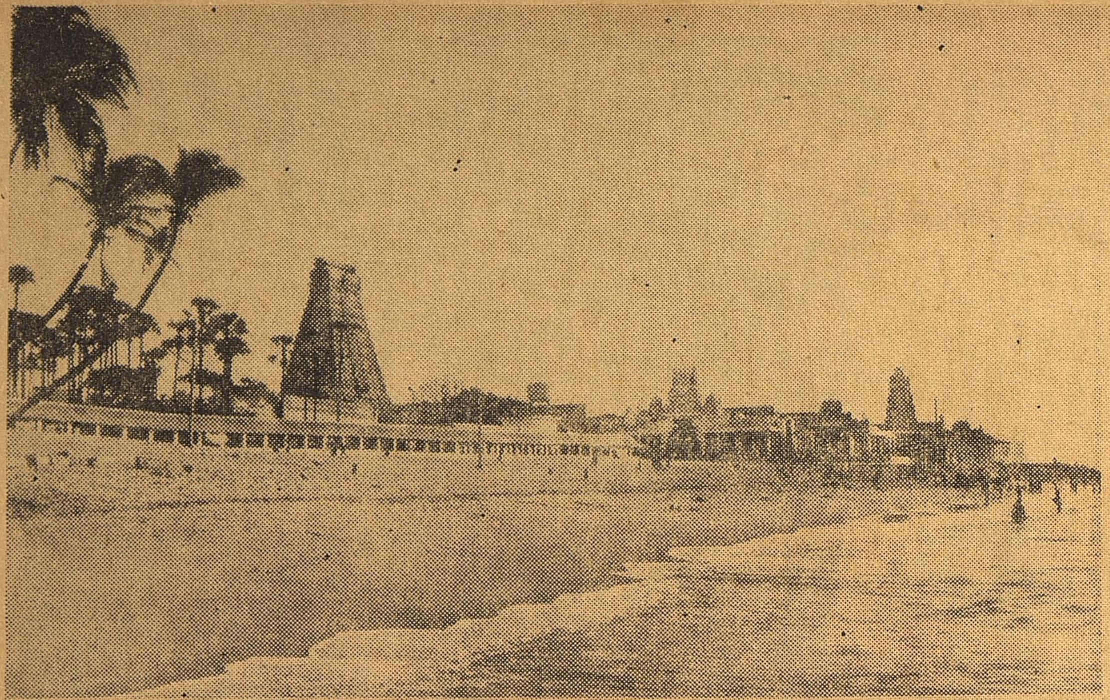
The government, after careful consideration of these numerous complaints, appointed a Special Enquiry Cell consisting of a sernior administrative officer, a senior audit officer drawn from the Accountant-General's office and an executive engineer of the Public Works Department to enquire into the various allegations that were received by it.

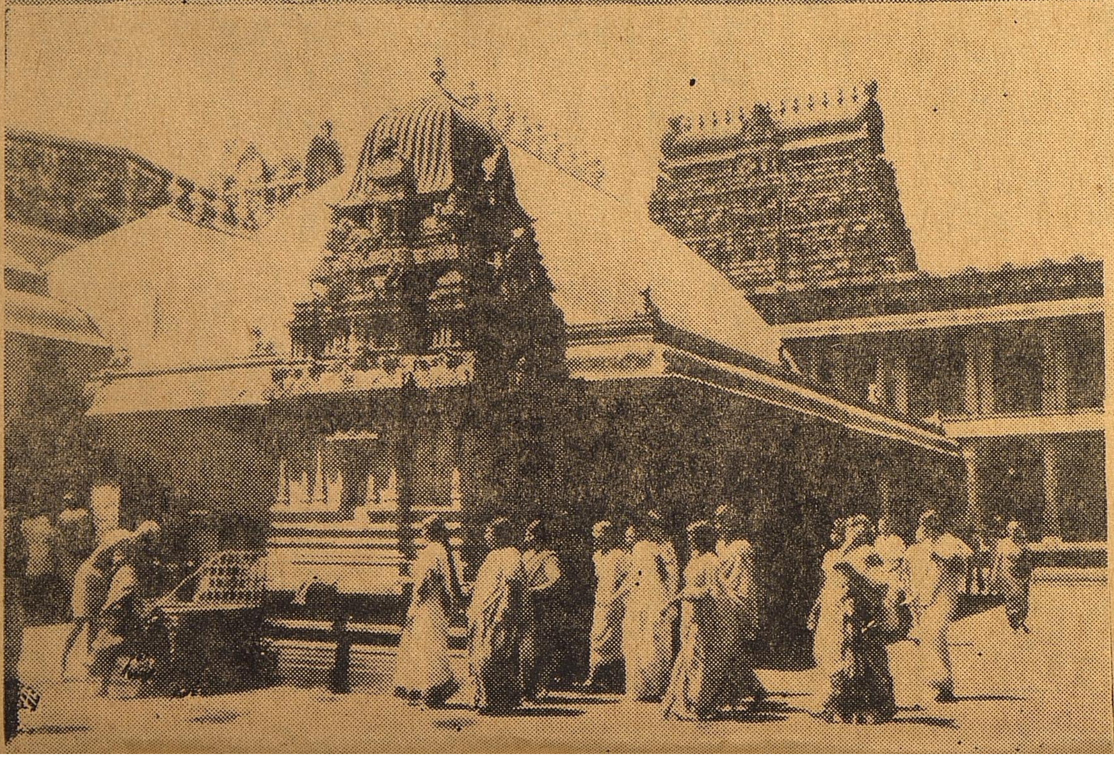
Political Trustees Ousted

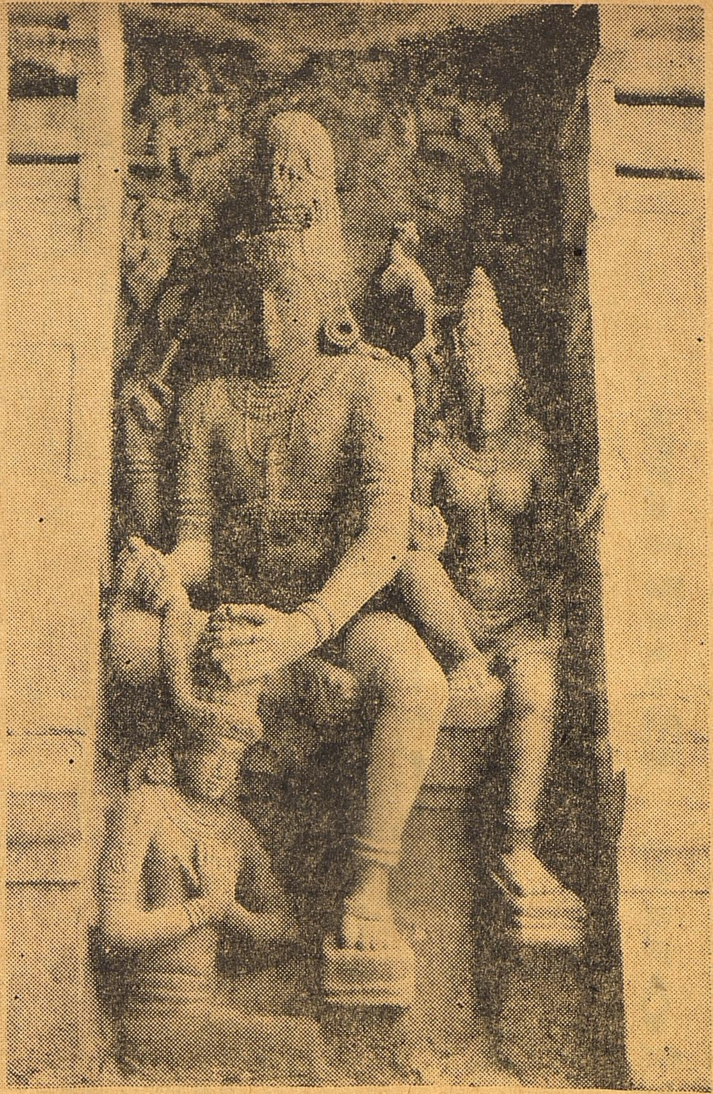
At the same time pending receipt of the enquiry report and findings, the government decided to tackle the problem both at the level of the temples and at the departmental level. By the President's Act (No. 24) of 1976, offices of all non-hereditary trustees appointed by the department earlier were terminated with effect from 1-6-1976. In temples where there were no hereditary trustees, persons carefully selected were appointed by the government to discharge the functions of the trustees. A large scale reshuffle of the executive officers was made and all temples with an annual assessable income of Rs. 10,000 and more were placed under their charge. In addition to the executive officers of the department, other departmental and government officials were appointed as 'fit persons' to discharge the functions of the trustees in many cases in addition to their own duties.

Second Lock Officers

In order to ensure that these fit persons who replaced trustees discharged their duties satisfactorily, a series of administrative measures were undertaken. In addition to the fit persons, officers of other departments were appointed as second lock officers to have joint custody of all the jewels and valuables and *hundis* in the temples. Clear directions were given that all receipts of the temples should be







Outstanding sculptures such as the one above in the Gangaikondacholapuram Temple will be protected and preserved in all Temples.

The Thiruchendur Temple (TOP LEFT) and Chidambaram Temple (LEFT) are being taken up for renovation.

credited only to Account No. I which stands under the Rules in the name of the chairman Board of Trustees. Any transfer from Account No. I to Account No. II, which stands in the name of the executive officer, has to be done only with the prior clearance from the deputy commissioners. Executive officers should spend only in accordance with the approved dhittams and budgets. Their powers for creation of new posts as trustees were curtailed. Printing or *archana* tickets in which according to the allegations, considerable abuse had taken place was centralised at the level of the assistant commissioners deputy commissioners and are issued with their seal after maintaining proper and regular accounts. All civil works where estimates had been approved but work had not actually been begun were stopped for *denovo* examination of the necessity and availability of funds. For works which were already in progress, it was ordered that payments should not be made without recording measurements and further that no final payments should be made without check-measurement by the departmental engineers. Restrictions were also placed on the issue of advertisements limiting such issue only for the purpose of informing the public about the arrangements for festivals.

Verification Wing Created

At the departmental level, all those officers who had been in one station or in their home districts for fairly long periods, were shifted to other stations or other districts. Restrictions were imposed on the commissioner with regard to release of amounts from the Common Good Fund and on diversion of surplus funds from the institutions without prior clearance of the government. An advisory committee was constituted to assist the commissioner, consisting of representatives from different walks of life. To speed up the disposal of judicial proceedings pending for long with the regional deputy commissioners, a special post of deputy commissioner with powers to have sittings in various districts was created. Another post of executive engineer was created to assist the public religious institutions by fixing fair rent for the buildings both residential and non-residential owned by them, so that the institutions can augment their resources. A drive for collection of arrears of contribution, audit fees and the executive officers' salaries was launched and between 1-2-1976 and 30-11-1976 over a crore of rupees was collected. The drive is still continuing. Audit objections which had piled up over the years to over four lakhs relating to more than 15 faslis and involving an amount of over Rs. 18 crores are being tackled vigorously by arranging division-wise joint sittings of the audit and administrative officials. Wherever misappropriation or misapplication of rules have been noticed, surcharge proceedings have been initiated to recover the loss sustained by the institutions. Proposals are under consideration of the government to strengthen the verification wing, so that the verification of jewels and other valuables belonging to the religious institutions are brought as up-to-date as possible, quickly.

Temple Renovation and Restoration Works Can be Taken up Only After Scrutiny by Archaeological Department

Proceedings for recovering losses

Provision of Rs. 15 lakhs has been made in the current year's budget and Rs. 17 lakhs in the next year's budget for assisting various institutions for renovation. It has, however, been made clear that renovation committees, wherever formed, should first obtain the approval of the commissioner and should have the executive officer in charge of the temple as its secretary, the secretary being charged with the responsibility to maintain accounts of the funds collected and received for such renovation. The renovation committee should first have the plans cleared with the directorate of archaeology, so that the director of archaeology could ensure and guide the committee in the matter of preservation of the original architectural pattern of the temple as well as the valuable inscriptions if any therein. A scheme has also been drawn for the protection of icons, of great antique value found in the temples.

Temple Restoration

The department is also collecting details of ancient temples that have fallen into decay, so that they could be restored in a phased manner. As a first measure in this direction, arrangements have been made to reconstruct the Tranquebar temple in Thanjavur which has been badly affected by sea erosion. Similarly master plans have been drawn for effecting improvements in a phased manner, in a number of temples including such famous temples as Arulmigu Sabanayagar temple, Chidambaram, Arulmigu Subramaniaswami temple, Tiruchendur, Arulmigu Sriranganathaswami temple, Srirangam.

Social Welfare activites also continued

The department is also continuing its social welfare activities rendered out of surplus funds of the religious institutions. Contributions have been made in the past to the various social welfare schemes undertaken by the government. Two deaf and dumb schools, three mercy homes, 204 libraries, 22 siddha dispensaries, one allopathic dispensary and a number of orphanages (with over 3,000 children) are being maintained out of the temple funds. **Seven colleges and 18 high schools are run under the auspices of the various religious institutions in this State. Steps have also been taken to streamline the administration of these colleges and schools and to raise the standard of education.**

The state government is quite aware that this task of managing the innumerable number of religious institutions cannot be left for long periods in the hands of officials alone and it is contemplating association of leading non-officials by appointment as trustees from among persons of integrity with devotion to the cause and service.

STEADY PROGRESS IN WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

EQUAL IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO URBAN & RURAL SCHEMES

The population of Tamil Nadu was 41.1 million as per the 1971 census. The urban population of 15.5 million is spread over two municipal corporations, 101 municipalities and municipal townships and 524 town panchayats. The rural population over 58,595 villages and hamlets comprising 12,347 village panchayats.

Of the 103 municipalities and townships and corporations, only 7 municipalities and 3 townships are yet to be provided with protected drinking water. A survey conducted in 1972 indicated that there were approximately 18,960 villages where the water supply was either inadequate, scarce or susceptible to water borne endemic diseases. To provide these municipal and rural areas with drinking water, the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board has been taking up various programmes at a steady pace. On an average about 1,750 villages were provided with drinking water per year for the last 4 years commencing from 1972-73.

During the latter part of 75-76 and during 76-77, Tamil Nadu had been experiencing unprecedented drought in 12 of its 15 districts. The Government ,therefore, took up a massive programme for providing drinking water supply in a very large number of villages and urban areas affected by scarcity. On April 3, 1976 a programme for sinking deep bore wells covering all the drought affected districts was launched, with the objective of sinking 6,700 bore wells at a cost of approximately Rs. 7 crores. To take up this programme, drilling rigs from all over the State as also from other States were mobilised. Each of these bore wells go down to a depth of about 120 to 300 feet and are mostly fitted with hand pumps. In Coimbatore district, where the depth of wells is about 250 to 300 feet, power pumps have also been installed in many sites. Within the short period of just 8 months, the entire programme of providing 6,700 new successful wells were completed, thereby providing as many drinking water supply points as were provided during the entire preceding 5 years. To tackle a few difficult pockets still remaining, another 1,000 deep bore wells are being sunk, and will be completed before the end of March 1977 at an additional cost of Rs. 1 crore. To maintain these hand pumps and also the pumps installed earlier, the Government has also sanctioned a maintenance organisation costing annually Rs. 25 lakhs.

The deep bore well programme could not be of assistance to some of the villages of Tamil Nadu where the ground water is saline or scarce. For decades, people in these areas have depended for their drinking water supply on open rain-fed ponds, resulting in transmission of a variety of water borne diseases. During drought, even these ponds also dry out. To tackle the problem of these areas, the Government of Tamil Nadu has for the first time taken up several schemes for providing drinking water to these villages by a net-work of pipes fed from a common groundwater source at distances up to 40 km. A total population exceeding two lakhs will, for the first time, be enjoying the benefits of a perennial source of drinking water. The over-all cost of these schemes is expected to be of the order of Rs. 3 crores this year. Three schemes benefiting 51 villages and a population of about 40,000 have already been completed. The remaining work is in rapid progress. The schemes completed include supply for 44 villages in Ottapidaram Panchayat Union in Tirunelveli district and five hamlets in Rameswaram Island.

T. V. ANTONY, I. A. S.,
SECRETARY,
Rural Development &
Local Administration Department

Apart from sinking bore wells, the government has sanctioned Rs. 97.5 lakhs for deepening 3,200 wells spread over the drought affected areas as also for improving water supply. These works were executed by the panchayat unions. Apart from this, a sum of Rs. 17.21 lakhs was also sanctioned to Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Thanjavur districts for deepening of Ooranis.

The drought has revealed serious lacunae in the information available regarding the drinking water position of rural areas. A new hamlet-wise survey has, therefore, been initiated. It is hoped to finalise the survey within the next few weeks and then review the priorities. The Government hopes, to provide protected water supply to all areas affected by scarcity and endemic diseases within the next 3 years.

Municipal water supply programmes have also been accelerated in the current year. As against an average expenditure in the past of about Rs. 5 crores per annum on urban water supply schemes, in 1976-77 expenditure is expected to be of the order of Rs. 8.2 crores. Sixty water supply schemes are now in progress. The most significant scheme is the programme for Coimbatore city and 27 neighbouring villages and towns. Coimbatore which hitherto was a chronically water-short city will by 1980 receive a supply of 22 million gallons as against the present seven. The Trichy scheme will increase the city's supply from 4 million gallons a day to seven millions. It is hoped to provide protected water supply to all municipalities and municipal townships within a period of three years.

The total expenditure in the year 1971-72 upto 1975-76 on rural water supply through the TWAD Board was of the order of about Rs. 13.6 crores. On the other hand this year's programme alone is expected to be of the order of over Rs. 12 crores covering almost as many villages as were benefitted in the last five years.

**

ELECTRICITY BOARD'S STEPS FOR MORE CONTACT WITH PUBLIC

With a view to establish direct contacts with the public on outstanding issues, a Complaint Cell has been formed in the Board in December, 1976. The Cell will receive petitions from the consumers direct and will dispose them of quickly without routing them through normal channel and subjecting them to usual procedures.

The efficiency in the administration and the organisation as a whole has been toned up. Strikes, gheraos, and demonstrations have become things of the past. There is wide-ranging co-operation between the management and the employees and a new spirit has permeated at all levels and the organisation is now more responsive than ever to public contacts and public service.

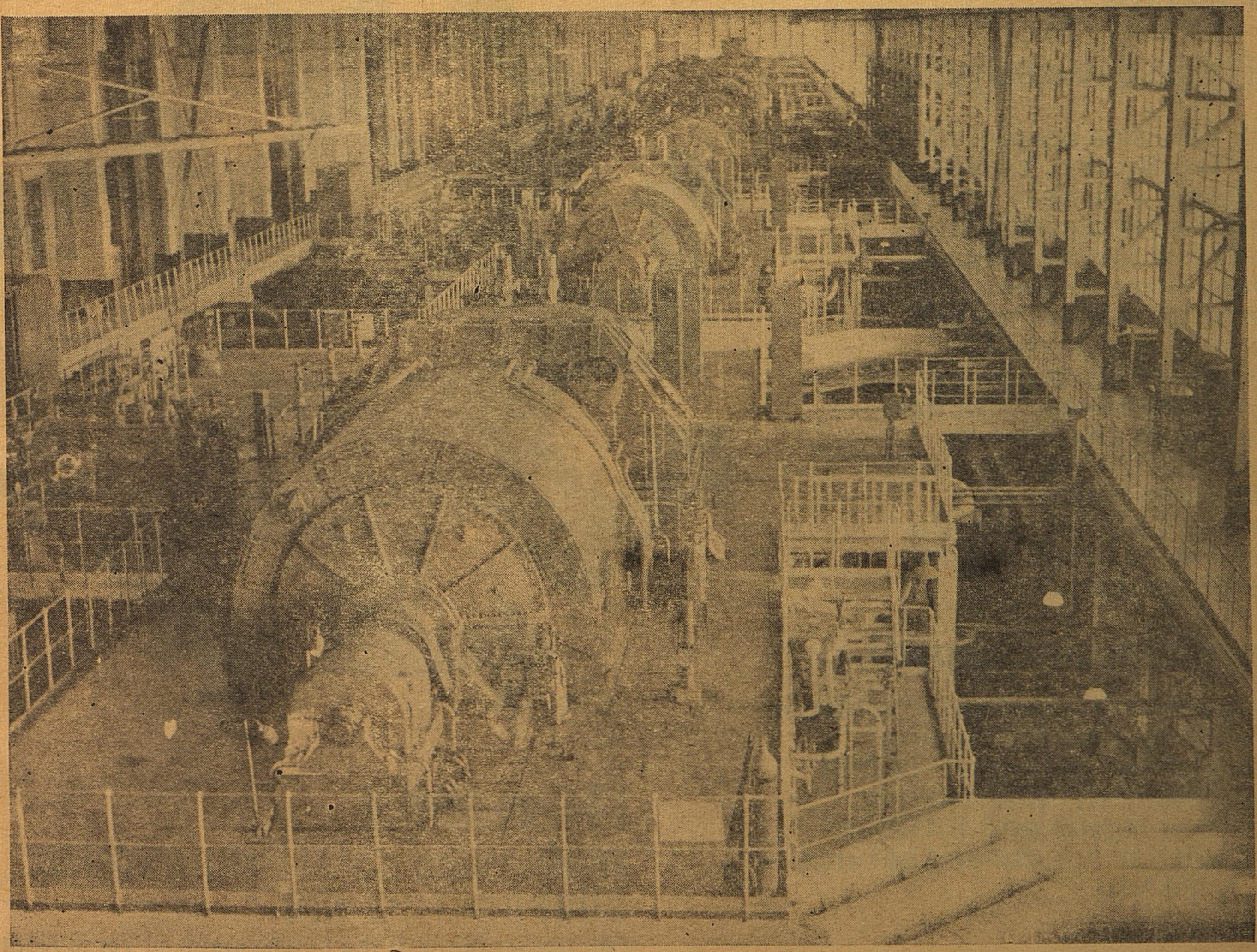
With a view to ensure professionalisation and functionalisation of management, officers are being deputed for various training courses with institutes of repute. Modern management techniques have been introduced and are being adopted in an extensive manner for project implementation and monitoring. System level performance is being closely monitored in order to effect reduction in inventory level, clearance of pending works in various areas and to induce a healthy competition among the systems.

Several economy measures to reduce cost of generation, transmission, and distribution, operation and maintenance and administration have been initiated. Steps have also been taken to prevent technical and commercial losses of energy. The reduction in line losses is of the order of 40 MU valued at Rs. 80 lakhs. The organisation for inspection of services has been strengthened by forming special surprise squads for each system to detect theft or misuse of energy. Mass-scale surprise raids have also been organised and conducted successfully.

Routine inspections covered 1.84 lakhs of services in 1975 ; this has risen to 5.57 lakhs in 1976. The total No. of services inspected by surprise were 1.05 lakhs in 1975 with 313 cases of energy pilferage. The services inspected in 1976 numbered 4.67 lakhs with 606 cases of theft of energy. The revenue assessed as realisable from these cases including defective services is Rs. 2.042 lakhs for eleven months in 1976 as against Rs. 6.23 lakhs for 1975. The inspections are deterrent in nature in preventing malpractices and also infusing a sense of fear in the minds of erring consumers.

[From the article by Thiru C. N. Raghavan, I.A.S., Secretary, P. W. D.]

Generator hall in Neyveli Thermal Station



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TAMIL NADU LABOUR WELFARE FUND

Significant Role in Labour Welfare

By
A. PADMANABHAN, I.A.S.,
Secretary, Labour & Employment Department.

Labour Welfare plays a significant role in the field of labour relations in the industrial society. Though it is the primary concern of the industrialists to provide the labourer all his needs, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the initiative to enter the field of labour welfare.

Various labour legislations such as Plantation Labour Act, Motor Transport Workers Act and Factories Act dn provide for labour welfare for the benefit of the workers. Yet the statutory provisions do not cover all the needs of the labour community and there is a wide gap between the statutory labour welfare measures and the actual needs. This resulted in the enactment of the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Fund Act and the creation of Labour Welfare Fund with annual subscription from both the employer and employee at the rate of Rs. 2/- and Re. 1/- respectively. Nearly 20,000 industrial establishments employing 6,83,464 workers fall within the provisions of this Act.

This Fund is administered by the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board under the Chairmanship of the Adviser (S) to the Governor and 19 other members. The employers and the employees have been given due representation on the Board, so that the workers and the employers can suggest useful schemes to improve the lot of the working class. The Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board meets once in a quarter and decides on useful labour welfare measures to be implemented.

TEN WELFARE CENTRES

The Board is now running 10 Labour Welfare Centres at 1. Ambattur (Madras), 2. Sembiam (Madras), 3. Coimbatore , 4. Madurai, 5. Dindigul, 6. Kovilpatti, 7. Somanur, 8. Gudiyattam, 9. Vaniyambadi and 10. Sivakasi. These places are industrially concentrated areas. The tailoring classes for women workers and the wives and dependants of workers are conducted in these centres. Each trainee is given a stipend of Rs. 30/- p.m. This will help the workers to get a substantial increase in family income as their wives or dependants, on completion of the tailoring course, can also earn independently. In these Labour Welfare Centres a trained Tailoring Instructress is employed to impart tailoring to the trainees. The duration of the course is one year and the trainees appear for the Government Technical Examinations for diplomas. A kindergarten school is also run in each of the above welfare centres where the children of the labourers are admitted. The children are given pre-school education. They are supplied with a meal and milk daily.

A qualified Balasevika is appointed to conduct the class. Toys are given to these children for playing. The Board will be very shortly supplying Balahar and nutritious food to the children in collaboration with CARE organisation. The Board has also a proposal to bring the children under the Integrated Health Package Scheme.

Another decision of the Board is to open Reading Rooms for the workers. Four reading rooms, two at Madras and one each at Coimbatore and Madurai, are being run by the Board. News dailies and magazines are supplied in the reading rooms for the workers. This will help the workers to gain more knowledge.

A Magalir Manram at Thiru-Vi-Ka. Nagar at Madras is run entirely financed by the Board. This is a registered society run by the family members of the workers. In this Child CARE Centre run by the Magalir Manram, 50 children below 5 years of age are given milk and kindergarten classes are conducted.

A multi-storeyed office building at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs is being constructed on an area of 6.33 ground in Anna Salai donated by Government of Tamil Nadu. The building will house the office of the Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Board. The surplus space will be rented out and it is expected to fetch a recurring revenue of Rs. 4 lakhs per annum to the Board for taking up labour welfare measures. The Governor of Tamil Nadu recently laid the foundation stone for the building.

There is a proposal to construct a stadium at Tondiarpet with facilities for indoor and outdoor games for workers.

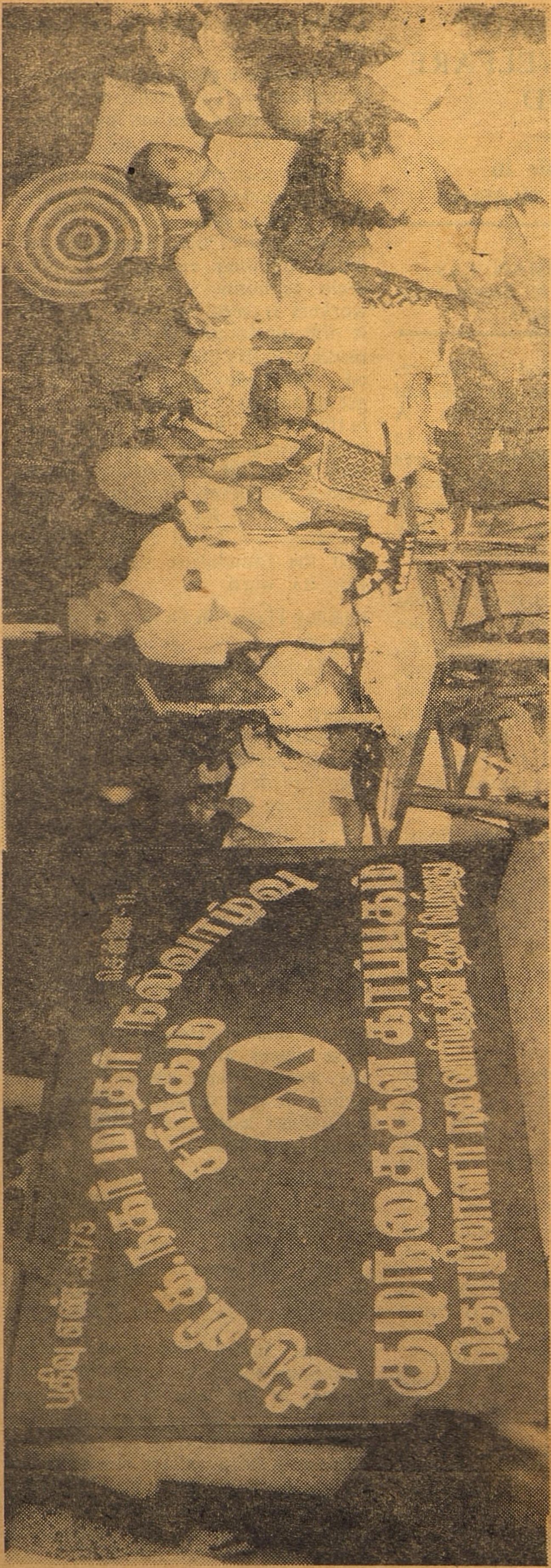
The incidence of Tuberculosis is more prevalent among the workers than among other people. This is perhaps due to the unhygienic condition of their employment. The socio economic condition of our workers is very bad and they find it difficult to afford treatment immediately after the disease is diagnosed. They also find it difficult to get admission in the few TB hosiptals in this State. The Board is therefore constructing a TB Ward with 26 beds in the TB Sanatorium at Tambaram exclusively for the workers at a cost of Rs. 3.6 lakhs. The Governor of Tamil Nadu recently laid the foundation stone for the workers' ward.

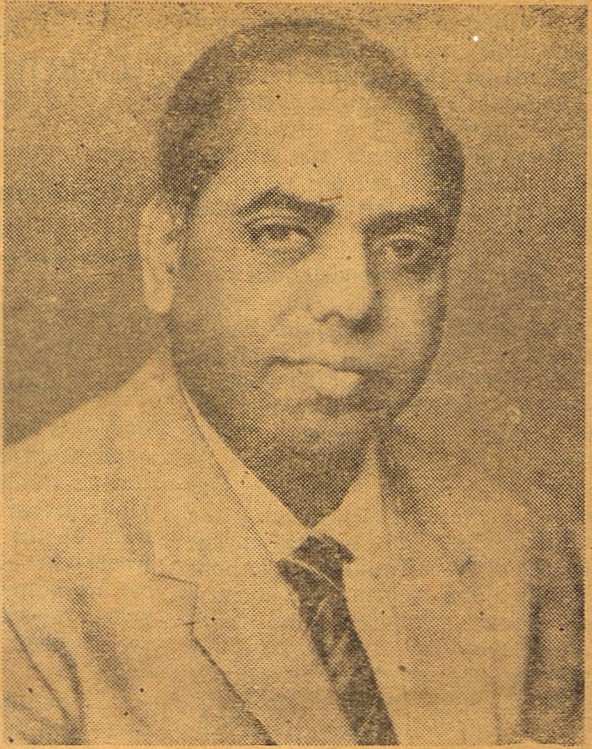
Holiday Homes in Ooty and Yercaud ready :

Holiday Homes at the places of tourist attraction and health resorts will be of much benefit to the workers who go on sight seeing tour for recreation. The Board has therefore decided to construct holiday homes for workers at Mamallapuram, Courtallam, Kodaikanal, Ooty and Yercaud. The Holiday Home at Mamallapuram will come up shortly. The Holiday Homes at other places will spring up in the course of this year. **Private Buildings are being rented at Ooty and Yercaud as an *ad hoc* measure to locate the Holiday Homes as the construction of Holiday Homes at these places may take some time. The workers may come, either in groups or with families, and stay in the holiday homes for a short period to get relaxation.**

The Board felt that workers would be interested in seeing films of educational importance on working conditions of labour in this country and other countries. So it has been decided to purchase a film projector for the use of workers.

The Board has many more ambitious schemes to promote the welfare of the labourers and their families. The Board is actively and untiringly functioning to provide more and more welfare measures to the workers so that the workers get rich dividend in return for their hard earned money contributed to the Labour Welfare Fund.





THIRU V. KARTHIKEYAN
Adviser to Governor of Tamil Nadu

On 16-2-1977 Thiru V. Karthikeyan assumed office as Adviser to the Governor.

Re-allocation of Subjects

Consequent on the appointment of Thiru Karthikeyan as Adviser, the Governor has directed re-allocation of business of Government among the Advisers as follows :—

Thiru P. K. DAVE : Public (Law and Order, Political, Political Pension, Foreigners and Officer on Special Duty) Finance, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Milk Projects. Forests and Fisheries, Health and Family Planning, Medical Services and Medical Education, Housing, Commercial Taxes, Registration and Legislation on Chits and Prohibition and Excise.

Thiru R. V. SUBRAHMANIAN : Education, Social Welfare, Industries, Khadi, Handloom and Textiles, Public Works, Labour and Employment, Food, Co-operation, Religious Endowments and Waqfs and Tourism.

Thiru V. KARTHIKEYAN : General Administration, High Court Judges, District Judges, Matters relating to Indian Civil Service and Indian Administrative Service Officers, District Revenue Officers, Elections, Official Language and Ex-Servicemen, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Home Department (including Information and Film Technology) Revenue, Law, Rural Development and Local Administration, Transport (including Ports and Government Press) and Legislature.

"We are all citizens of India. There have been inequalities between one section and another in this country. It should be the duty of all of us now to try and remove these inequalities by giving opportunities for growth and development of those sections of our society which were denied these opportunities in the past. It will certainly be my endeavour to ensure that more and more of our Harijan and tribal brothers and sisters are put in positions of authority and in positions where they can help to solve their own problems as well as other's problems."

—Prime Minister INDIRA GANDHI

The Government of Tamil Nadu

Regd. No. M. 8676-A

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